

Gorbachev renews support for ANC

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev met Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos on Tuesday and both reaffirmed their support for liberation movements in southern Africa, the official news agency TASS said. During the talks in the Kremlin, described by TASS as warm and cordial, they denounced U.S. backing for the rebel National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). They also pledged continued support for the African National Congress (ANC) in South Africa and the South-West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), which is fighting control of neighbouring Namibia by the Pretoria government. Mr. Dos Santos and Mr. Gorbachev attacked last month's U.S. air raids on Libya and what they called Washington's attempts "to use situations of conflict in various parts of the world to further poison the international climate."

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Jordan beats Egypt in polo

AMMAN (Petra) — A friendly polo match was held at the Royal Equestrian Club in Amman on Tuesday between national teams of Jordan and Egypt. Jordan won the match by six points against nil. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan leads the Jordanian team and has acquired long experience in this sport through matches held against many world teams. Prince Hassan received the cup for Tuesday's winners and later distributed awards and prizes to the members of the Egyptian team.

Finnish foreign minister arrives

AMMAN (J.T.) — Finnish Foreign Minister Paavo Vayrynen arrived in Amman on Monday for talks with Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Rajai Muasher. The talks are expected to cover bilateral relations and Middle East conflict. The Finnish minister will also visit archaeological and historic sites in the Kingdom.

Hamadi in Cairo

CAIRO (R) — A senior Iraqi official arrived on Tuesday for talks on the Gulf war with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and said the situation on the Iraqi front was highly satisfactory. Saddam Hamadi, speaker of the Iraqi Parliament, told reporters: "I am here to reassure the Egyptian leadership that the situation on the Iraqi front is highly satisfactory and that the Iraqi army has won successive victories since the Iranian aggression against the Fao Peninsula" in southern Iraq.

OAPEC averts split

KUWAIT (R) — Arab oil states averted a split in their ranks on Tuesday as members of the 10-nation Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) apparently persuaded Tunisia to shelve plans to leave the group. Tunisia's plans to quit had topped the agenda of a biannual ministerial meeting here, but an OAPEC spokesman said Tunisia decided to shelve formal discussion of its position after last-minute contacts with other members. (See earlier story on page 7).

'No radioactive danger in Israel'

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Israeli health minister, Mordechai Gur, on a visit to the nuclear research facility at Nahal Sorek, has said that "any traces" of radioactive cesium have been found in dust in Israel, but stressed that there is "no danger to the public." Scientists there told Gur that they were surprised that the cesium had arrived in Israel, because it is a very heavy element.

Tripoli Islamic leader shot dead

TRIPOLI (R) — Unidentified gunmen on Tuesday shot dead leading Muslim hardliner Mustafa Mohammad Ali Kreydi as he was leaving his home in this northern city, security sources said. Mr. Kreydi, aged about 40, belonged to Al Jama'at Al Islamiyah (Islamic Group).

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Syrian leader leaves after successful 24-hour visit

King-Assad talks undoubtedly fruitful — Khatib

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency despatches

AMMAN — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad returned home on Tuesday after two days of talks with His Majesty King Hussein, crowning an eight-month effort to minimise Syrian-Jordan differences and to restore excellent and brotherly relations between the two countries.

Information Minister Mohammad Al Khatib said the King and the Syrian president discussed ways to bring about the much-delayed Arab summit conference. He added that the Jordanian-Syrian talks emphasised the need for "a more coordinated Arab stand to pave the way for an effective and successful Arab summit to deal with all issues of concern to the Arab Nation."

Speaking to reporters at the airport after President Assad had left, Mr. Khatib said no communiqué was expected to be issued on the King's three rounds of talks with the Syrian leader. The talks, the minister said, dwell on ways to strengthen Arab unity.

"In that respect, the talks between the two leaders were undoubtedly successful," Mr. Khatib said. "There are no outstanding issues," he added.

President Assad's visit to Jordan came days after Arab foreign ministers, meeting in the Moroccan city of Fez, failed to agree on the venue and agenda for an extraordinary Arab summit. The summit was called for by Libya to discuss the April 15 American air raids on Tripoli and Benghazi.

Other Jordanian officials contacted by the Jordan Times on Tuesday declined to make any comment on the Syrian president's visit and the outcome of his talks with the King.

The King embraced the Syrian president before he boarded a Syrian Air jet at Amman airport to end his first visit to Jordan since 1978.

Also at the airport to bid farewell to President Assad were His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Cabinet members and senior Jordanian officials.

A high-level Syrian delegation accompanying President Assad also left with the Syrian leader. The delegation included Prime Minister Abdul Raouf Al Kasn and Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara'a.

Parallel to the King's talks with President Assad on Monday, Mr. Rifai and Dr. Kasn co-chaired a meeting between Jordanian and Syrian officials. The meeting was attended by several Cabinet members and senior officials from both sides.

The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said the meeting discussed ways and means to improve bil-

ateral relations and cooperation between the two countries in various fields.

The Syrian president and the delegation accompanying him were the guests of honour at a dinner hosted by the King Monday night. Also the King took Mr. Assad on a tour of Amman Monday night.

President Assad's visit to Jordan capped the Syrian-Jordanian rapprochement process which was initiated by an Arab League committee headed by Saudi Arabia. The committee, which was entrusted by the Arab League with the task of settling differences between Jordan and Syria, launched its mission in September.

Mr. Rifai and Dr. Kasn met twice in Saudi Arabia and exchanged visits to Damascus and Amman. Following the premiers' visits, the King paid a visit to Syria in December last year and President Assad was returning the visit.

Asked on Tuesday whether the King's talks with Mr. Assad had narrowed Jordanian-Syrian differences on the five- and-a-half-year-old Iran-Iraq war, Mr. Khatib said: (Continued on page 3)

Soviet panel says local officials failed to realise scale of Chernobyl accident

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Soviet Union said on Tuesday that local officials at the site of the Chernobyl nuclear accident had initially failed to appreciate the scale of the disaster.

Boris Shcherbina, who heads a government commission investigating the accident, repeated earlier official statements which said the accident killed two people and added that it contaminated 100 people with radiation.

Mr. Shcherbina told a news conference that the injured people from the Ukrainian power plant had been sent to Moscow for treatment.

The first information we obtained was not the same which he obtained when we were in the area. In the area, the local experts had not made a correct assessment of the accident," he said.

Mr. Shcherbina, a deputy prime minister, said the accident had occurred at 1.23 a.m. on April 26. "Preliminary results allow us to guess that the most probable version is that there was a chemical explosion," he said.

He said the accident had partially destroyed the building housing the last of the four reactors at the Chernobyl plant.

Radiation levels in the Ukraine and Byelorussia, whose border is only 12.5 kilometres from Chernobyl, had not exceeded safety norms submitted by the Soviet Health Ministry, he said. The highest levels were recorded on April 27 but they had now fallen steeply, he said.

"As a result the situation over Chernobyl is normalised," Mr. Shcherbina said. Two of the other three reactors were ready to give energy at any time, but the third

reactor required "careful study and research." He did not elaborate.

Answering questions at the packed news conference, Mr. Shcherbina said that evacuation of Pripyat, a town of 25,000 people adjoining the Chernobyl plant, did not begin until 2 p.m. local time on Saturday, April 26.

It was completed two hours and 20 minutes later, he said.

Initially, some municipal workers were kept in the city to keep it running. Mr. Shcherbina said. But, when radiation levels reached their highest point on April 27, those workers were also evacuated, he said.

Mr. Shcherbina said 150 workers were at the site dealing with the consequences of the disaster. Some 4,000 tonnes of sand had been used to seal the damaged reactor. (Continued on page 3)

South Sudan deputies boycott assembly

KHARTOUM (R) — Politicians from southern Sudan, where civil war has raged for three years, walked out of the country's new parliament on Tuesday saying traditional parties from the north had failed to meet their demands.

The 28 southern deputies were joined by eight from the National Sudan Party (NSP) who were elected last month to a 301-seat constituent assembly, the first democratic parliament in Sudan in 17 years.

They told a news conference shortly after the walkout they were protesting against the failure of the traditional parties of the north to meet their demands.

These were a secular constitution, a federal system that would give Sudan's eight regions autonomous rule and a third of government ministerial portfolios and supreme council seats.

Sudan's two traditional northern parties — the Al Umma and the Democratic Unionist (DUP) parties — agreed to form a joint government, with Al Umma leader

Sadeq Al Mahdi sworn in as prime minister.

"We have walked out to show the world our anger and indignation," NSP leader Philip Abbas Ghaboush said. "We are going to submit our resignations and go home."

Mr. Ghaboush, whose party draws support from the Nuba mountains southwest of Khartoum, said northern politicians were "trying to bring a South Africa to Sudan."

Sudan's 23 million people are ethnically diverse, with the Christian and pagan south traditionally resentful of the more prosperous, mainly-Muslim north.

A 17-year north-south civil war ended in 1972, but flared anew in 1983 over demands by the southern rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) for the abolition of Islamic law.

Now-ousted President Jaafar Numeiri introduced Sharia in 1983, having already antagonised

the south earlier the same year by dividing it into three administrative provinces.

Negotiations between the Al Umma Party leader and southern politicians appeared to be heading for a deadlock Monday night when the southerners broke off talks at Al Umma headquarters.

The leader of the Southern People's Progressive Party (PPP), Aliabo James Suru, told Tuesday's news conference: "We have tolerated them (the north) for too long. From now on, I declare Sudan to be an African country, not Afro-Arab."

If the southern and NSP deputies do resign from parliament, the Al Umma and DUP would still have a majority to form a coalition government.

But Mr. Mahdi, aware of the country's seemingly endless problems, has said he wanted to include as many political groups as possible in a few government.

Democracy flows again in Sudan, page 4

Bangladesh goes to polls today after violent campaign

DHAKA (AP) — The campaign for Wednesday's parliamentary election, the first in seven years, featured a mysterious disappearance, at least 11 violent deaths and charges that the martial-law government backed down on its pledge of neutrality.

A major opposition party already has threatened to denounce the results unless there is what it calls a minimum effort for free and fair balloting. It demanded "no bashing of heads, no killing."

About 1,000 candidates from 28 political parties and some 400 independents are running, but

most seats are expected to be divided between President Hussain Mohammad Ershad's National Party and the Awami League, led by the daughter of an ex-president slain in a coup.

Lieutenant-General Ershad calls the election a necessary step for a return to civilian rule, but another opposition group — the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, led by the widow of yet another slain ex-president — has urged boycotting the vote, saying it would only "legalise the illegal military government."

The campaign of few real issues

has been overshadowed by the disappearance of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party leader, Khaleda Zia, who emerged on Sunday after four days, saying she had been held by armed men who "maybe" were Gen. Ershad's government agents.

The government immediately ridiculed her story as "concocted" and said she had gone into hiding to discredit the election. The next day it put her under house arrest just before she was to address a rally, and police with bamboo truncheons then broke up the rally.

Since its independence from Pakistan in 1971, Bangladesh has been known for political violence. At least 11 people have been killed and more than 800 injured in the three-week campaign, which ended Monday.

The nation's founding president, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, father of Awami League leader Hasina Wajed, was killed in a 1975 coup. Mrs. Zia's husband, Gen. Ziaur Rahman, was killed in another coup in 1981, and Gen. Ershad seized power in yet another coup the following year.

Gemayel starts Tunisian visit

TUNIS (R) — Lebanese President Amin Gemayel arrived in Tunis on Tuesday for talks with President Habib Bourguiba saying he was striving to find a solution to the crisis in his country. Mr. Gemayel, making the first official visit to Tunisia by a Lebanese president, will also meet Arab League Secretary General Chadli Klibi on Wednesday, the second day of his three-day trip. Arab diplomatic sources said Mr. Gemayel was greeted at Tunis-Carthage airport by 82-year-old Bourguiba and the two later had talks at Carthage Palace, the official TAP news agency said. Official sources in Beirut said Mr. Gemayel would be asking for Arab assistance to end his country's 11-year-old civil war. Lebanon was among countries pressing for a special Arab summit to discuss issues including its domestic turmoil, but plans for the summit fell through last week.



His Majesty King Hussein and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad hold talks on Tuesday (Petra photo)

Tokyo summit ends with vow to tackle economic problems

TOKYO (AP) — Leaders of the world's most powerful industrialised nations on Tuesday resolved to renew their attack on currency and trade problems, then ended their three-day summit conference at an elegant banquet hosted by Emperor Hirohito.

Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone said it was "a very fruitful meeting," and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, veteran of eight of the yearly conferences of the major industrial democracies, proclaimed the 12th meeting "one of the best."

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said the most important achievements were a declaration on nuclear-power safety and what he described as a confirmation of the Bonn government's economic policies.

Mrs. Thatcher, who left for Britain immediately after the banquet, was described as instrumental in winning approval for a condemnation of "terrorism."

U.S. President Ronald Reagan, who proposed the anti-terrorism declaration, termed the meeting "extremely successful."

French President Francois Mitterrand said France and the United States had ended their differences over the Americans' April 15 bombing raid on Libya.

Two other delighted participants were Prime Minister Bettino Craxi of Italy and Premier Brian Mulroney of Canada, whose countries gained partial membership in the Group of Five, an influential group of finance ministers from the other summit nations that helps mold global monetary trends.

The leaders, with representatives of the European Community (EC), forged greater unity on political issues than economic matters during the three-day meeting.

The "terrorism" statement essentially won the endorsement of Canada and Japan for steps taken by the EC under U.S. pressure last month. The nuclear safety declaration prodded the Kremlin to open up to the world about the Chernobyl nuclear disaster and called for mandatory international inspections in such cases.

In their "Tokyo Economic Declaration" (See page 7), the group agreed to try to quell turbulence in monetary markets, attacked protectionism and recognised the need to readjust farm subsidies. But they did not spell out an action programme.

Despite backing from West Germany, Japan was frustrated in its attempts to get other governments to stem the soaring yen. The United States and Britain welcome the strong yen because it makes Japanese goods more expensive and may cut the two nations' large trade deficits with Japan.

Midway through the economic talks on Tuesday, the yen reached a post-world War II high, trading at 166 yen to the dollar.

After issuing their communiqué, summit leaders and their spouses changed to tuxedos and glittering evening gowns for the gala banquet at the Imperial Palace, set amid a vast, moat-surrounded park in the centre of Tokyo.

Mr. Nakasone on Tuesday distanced Japan from the conference statement condemning Libya as a sponsor of "terrorism."

The statement contains only defensive measures and does not entail "economic or other sanctions," Mr. Nakasone told a news conference. "There is no change in our (Japan's) Middle East policy."

"We agreed on this because innocent civilians were being made the victims of these... state-supported acts," he said. "This (statement) is intended to defend us from terrorism, and does not mean we would adopt economic and other sanctions." (See related story on page 2).

Meanwhile, a string of noisy smoke bombs, possibly set by extremists trying to disrupt the Tokyo summit, exploded in nearly a score of commuter railroad stations Tuesday. They caused no injuries and except in isolated cases had little impact on the morning rush hour.

A police spokesman said the crude bombs were "possibly the work of radicals," some of whom had vowed to "crush" the summit, on grounds that it was an imperialist scheme to start a world war.

At least 19 of the crudely made devices exploded in 19 subway and rail stations, he said, including one planted near a platform kiosk five minutes' walk from the Akasaka Palace, the main summit venue.

No group took credit for the bombings, the latest in a two-month series of incidents aimed at disrupting the summit.

Responsibility for a rocket attack on Sunday was claimed by Chukaku-Ha, or middle core faction, the most active of Japan's dozen-plus leftist groups.

A leader of the Chukaku-Ha told the Kyodo news service that Tuesday's smoke bomb attacks were not conducted by his group. "The action was so childish," Makoto Matsuo, 36, told Kyodo in an exclusive interview.

IRA bomb suspect pleads innocence

LONDON (AP) — A Belfast man on Tuesday pleaded innocent to planting an Irish Republican Army (IRA) bomb which blew up Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's hotel and killed five people in October 1984.

Patrick Magee, 34, looked relaxed and smiled towards the public gallery as he was led into the dock of London's Old Bailey central criminal court, which was ringed with armed police.

Magee alone was charged with the five murders in the assassination attempt. With three other men and two women, he also pleaded innocent to charges of planning a series of bombings in Britain in 1985 reportedly a summer blitz of English seaside hotels which was foiled by police.

Another man, Shaun McShane, pleaded innocent to helping with the 1985 planned bombings.

The charges alleged that Magee planted the bomb with a timing device in the Grand Hotel at Brighton between Sept. 14-19, 1984 — nearly a month before the Oct. 12 explosion during the Conservative Party's annual convention in the south England resort.

Al Najah classes cancelled as Israeli siege continues

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Classes were cancelled for the second day Tuesday at the largest Palestinian university in the occupied West Bank to protest army roadblocks around the campus, Palestinian and military spokesmen said.

The checkpoints outside Al Najah University in Nablus were to bar people from attending a Palestinian folklore festival where Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) flags were displayed over the weekend, a military spokeswoman told the AP.

University spokesman Saeb Erakat told the AP that most of the 4,000 students were not allowed past the roadblocks and that classes were not held since Monday at Al Najah.

But the Israeli spokeswoman claimed that students showing campus identity cards were allowed to enter the hilltop grounds since the roadblocks were erected on Monday.

The campus has been closed in the past for three months at a time after students organised Palestinian folklore exhibitions. The last Al Najah closure was a week in December 1985.

Meanwhile, Israeli police said they had detained the blind leader and 19 members of a Palestinian group suspected of killing a British tourist and Israeli businesswoman in Jerusalem.

The group's leader was identified as Aladdin Al Bazian.

In another development, Israeli's trade and industry minister Ariel Sharon, citing the "threat of competition," has ordered that all products made in the occupied West Bank bear the name and address of the manufacturer, a newspaper reported on Tuesday.

While the move appeared primarily aimed at making Israelis aware of when they buy Palestinian-produced items, Sharon said the labelling requirement also will ensure that the products comply with Israeli marketing requirements, the Jerusalem Post reported.

Those requirements call for all Israeli-made items to list the manufacturer, ingredients, weight and other details.

Sharon's order coincides with a movement by West Bank Palestinians who are calling for once-a-month boycotts of Israeli-made products.

Initially the order will apply to shoes, paper, cartons, mattresses and tefillin, the Post said.

Until now, West Bank-produced goods have not required such a label.

The West Bank imports more goods from Israel than it exports to Israel. The balance of trade deficit increased by 49 per cent last year, reaching \$219 million, the Post said.

2 tankers hit in Gulf attacks

Number of attacked ships reach 200

BAHRAIN (R) — Two tankers were hit in apparent Iraqi missile attacks in the Gulf in the last 24 hours and at least one was ablaze, shipping sources in the region said Tuesday.

They named the ships as the 103,163-ton Liberian ship Energy Mobility and the 134,011-ton Cyprus-registered Superior.

The Energy Mobility, hit Tuesday near the main Iranian oil terminal at Kharg Island in the northern Gulf, was said to be on fire, while the Superior had reported it needed no assistance. Further details were not immediately available.

The attacks bring to 200 the number of ships known to have been attacked or damaged by both Iran and Iraq in the Gulf since May 1981, according to the reckoning of Lloyds Shipping Intelligence in London.

Iraq, at war with Iran since 1980, has claimed attacks on three "naval targets" near the Iranian coast in the last 24 hours, two from the air and one by its navy.

In Athens, a Ministry of Merchant Marine spokesman said the 37 crew of the Cyprus-registered tanker were reported to be safe.

The previous confirmed attacks were on Thursday, when the Saudi Arabian tanker Al Safaniya was hit by two missiles, killing its British captain and two Pakistani crew members.

A Dutch-owned floating crane, the Magnus 3, was also badly damaged on Thursday in an Iraqi missile strike, but none of the 12-man crew was hurt, shipping sources said.

Some 38 ships are known to have been hit by both sides so far this year, compared with about 46 successful confirmed strikes in 1985.

The Superior, on a tanker shuttle between Kharg and a makeshift oil terminal at Sirri Island in the southern Gulf, was previously hit in an Iraqi strike on Jan. 1, but the missile which hit the ship failed to explode, the sources said.

The ship only recently left the dry dock at Dubai, where it had been repaired, they said.

Meanwhile ship owners want more protection for vessels in the Gulf where crews are becoming "cannon fodder" for warring Iran and Iraq, shipping sources in the region say.

The "tanker war" has escalated this year, with some 35 confirmed hits resulting in at least 13 deaths, compared with 46 strikes and about 11 deaths for the whole of 1985.

Iraq has increased its attacks on ships on the western side of the Gulf, where the U.S. Navy has warships often supported by the British and French navies.

The waterway is a vital artery for about a sixth of the non-Communist world's oil.

"There is a general feeling in the industry that vessels and crews are often badly briefed about dangerous areas and they have precious little official information, or help from the navies," one source said.

The sources said last Thursday's Iranian attack off the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on the Saudi Arabian tanker Al Safaniya, in which the British captain and the Pakistanis were killed, might have been avoided with better information.

"The Al Safaniya was hit shortly after midnight and within range of Rostam Island, where Iran used a landing platform on an oil rig for attack helicopters.

"Had the captain known that the Iranians normally attacked in daylight and that Rostam was a danger point, he might well have changed course or slowed down," one source said.

Many vessels using Gulf Arab ports pass by night through a danger zone off the UAE and Qatar, where some 12 tankers have been hit by Iran in the past two months, to avoid attacks.

Apart from urgently needed protection at sea, shipping firms also want more information from concerned governments on current conditions in the Gulf, the sources said.

They said tension in the Gulf had risen since March, when 14 vessels were hit by Iran and Iraq, the highest monthly toll since Baghdad launched the tanker war in 1984 in a bid to disrupt Iranian oil exports.

Iraq retaliated with attacks in international waters on ships using ports in Gulf Arab states, which generally support Iraq in its ground war against Iran, now in its sixth year.

While Iranian strikes have increased, confirmed Iraqi attacks in its self-proclaimed war zone, embracing Iran's main Kharg Island oil terminal in the northern Gulf, have dropped.

The sources said they believed Iran's navy had increased protection for Tehran's fleet of chartered tankers fleeing oil from Kharg to Sirri Island in the southern Gulf, where Iran has a makeshift terminal outside apparent Iraqi jet range.

Diplomats in the region say the U.S. Navy, which maintains about five warships in the Gulf and has a carrier-led battle group outside, "monitors" American-flag vessels in the area.

They say British and French warships generally do likewise for ships from their countries, but add that few if any merchant vessels are afforded military escorts.

The shipping sources note that the U.S. Navy also has access to information from Saudi-based Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft.

Meanwhile, the sources said, Iran had increased the use of decoy vessels aimed at confronting attacking Iraqi pilots in the northern Gulf.

They said the decoys, generally barges fitted with huge metal balloons, were allowed to drift freely about 10 miles off the Iranian coast in the Kharg area. Several of them had drifted across to Gulf Arab states, they added.

Iraq normally uses French-made Exocet missiles for attacks on ships. The radar-guided missiles, fired about 40 kilometres from a target, go for large structures on the horizon.

Iraq has also placed some disguised tankers off Kharg to act as decoys, the sources added.

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Iraq normally uses French-made Exocet missiles for attacks on ships. The radar-guided missiles, fired about 40 kilometres from a target, go for large structures on the horizon.

Iraq has also placed some disguised tankers off Kharg to act as decoys, the sources added.

While Iranian strikes have increased, confirmed Iraqi attacks in its self-proclaimed war zone, embracing Iran's main Kharg Island oil terminal in the northern Gulf, have dropped.

The sources said they believed Iran's navy had increased protection for Tehran's fleet of chartered tankers fleeing oil from Kharg to Sirri Island in the southern Gulf, where Iran has a makeshift terminal outside apparent Iraqi jet range.

Diplomats in the region say the U.S. Navy, which maintains about five warships in the Gulf and has a carrier-led battle group outside, "monitors" American-flag vessels in the area.

They say British and French warships generally do likewise for ships from their countries, but add that few if any merchant vessels are afforded military escorts.

The shipping sources note that the U.S. Navy also has access to information from Saudi-based Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft.

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UNRWA evacuates staff from W. Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — The U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) announced Tuesday, it has removed its entire foreign staff from Beirut to the Lebanese capital because of the "kidnappings and killings of foreigners."

The situation in west Beirut has made it too dangerous for many international staff to remain there, said a press release put out by UNRWA Director in Lebanon Robert Gallagher, a Canadian.

"Kidnappings and killings of foreigners in west Beirut have forced UNRWA to transfer its international staff to east Beirut, but agency operations in Lebanon continue," the statement said.

UNRWA spokesman Wafa Tamir said the move involved seven Westerners, including Mr. Gallagher. The other six are two West Germans, two Swedes, one Norwegian and one Jordanian.

They will rotate between east Beirut and the UNRWA office at the Cypriot port of Larnaca "until such a time when the security situation permits their return to the field office in west Beirut," Miss Tamir said.

The field office is now named by local staff, she added.

UNRWA's move capped an exodus of Westerners from Beirut's Muslim sector following the murder of a kidnapped American librarian and two British teachers last month by terrorists seeking to avenge America's air raid on Libya on April 15.

The Arab Revolutionary Cells, a group believed linked to Palestinian leader Abu Nidal, said in a statement left near the bodies that they were "executed" in retaliation for the British-supported American air raid.

Another Abu Nidal-linked group, the Revolutionary Organisation of Socialist Muslims, also claimed it hanged kidnapped British journalist Alec Collet to avenge the raid.

The group released a videotape purporting to show the 64-year-old New York-based writer dangling from a gallows.

But UNRWA officials with whom Collet worked before his March 25, 1985 abduction said they could not confirm that the hanged man was Collet.

On the day the bodies of slain librarian Peter Kilburn, of San Francisco, California, Leigh Douglas, of Stalham, Norfolk, and Philip Padfield, of Bideford, Devon, were discovered on April 17, a British journalist was kidnapped.

John McCarthy, of the London-based Worldwide Television News Agency, was snatched by gunmen as he headed for Beirut airport to catch a flight to London.

No group has claimed responsibility for his abduction.

A type-written Arabic language statement was distributed in Beirut Monday on behalf of the General Federation of Arab Journalists, which has headquarters in Damascus, Syria, calling on McCarthy's captors to free him.

White House urges Congress to approve Saudi weapons deal

TOKYO (Agencies) — The Reagan administration urged Congress Tuesday to approve a \$354 million arms sale to Saudi Arabia to help protect what it called vital U.S. interests in the Gulf.

In a statement issued in Tokyo, where President Reagan was attending a summit of top industrial democracies, White House spokesman Larry Speakes said the Saudis had also "consistently worked behind the scenes" to prevent terrorism.

The summit nations — The United States, Japan, Canada, West Germany, Britain, Italy and France — issued a statement Monday pledging specific action against international terrorism, naming Libya as a major sponsor.

"We are engaged in a critical struggle against Libyan supported terrorism... Saudi Arabia has consistently worked behind the scenes to discourage terrorism from any source," the statement said.

The sale of sophisticated air and sea missiles faces strong opposition this week in Congress, which forced Mr. Reagan to withdraw a proposed weapons sale to Jordan earlier this year.

Mr. Speakes said the arms package included only enough missiles for Saudi defence needs.

"They present no threat to Israel and in no way undercut the absolute determination of the United States to preserve Israel's qualitative military edge in the region," he said.

Mr. Speakes praised Saudi Arabia's record of not allowing U.S. weapons from falling "into unauthorised hands."

He said if the United States failed to supply the Saudis with the weapons they were certain to get them from other sources who would probably not share U.S. concern for Israeli security.

"The United States has vital interests in the Gulf... the sale will protect and advance our interests," he said.

Mr. Speakes said the United States and Saudi Arabia had mutual interests like halting terrorism and working for peace in the Middle East.

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Government sources in Britain said Mr. Younger, on his first visit to Saudi Arabia since he took over from Michael Heseltine as defence minister in January, firmly supported the sale and was keen to strengthen Britain's links with the kingdom.

The offset principle was first applied to a consortium led by Boeing of the United States which won a \$1.18 billion contract to set up an early warning defence system in Saudi Arabia.

Assistant Defence Minister Prince Fahd bin Abdullah said earlier this year Boeing and its partners had proposed 12 projects to meet the requirement, including manufacture of helicopters, military radios, electronic components and other high-technology goods.

Total investment by the U.S. firms and Saudi partners was expected to reach \$754 million by 1989 and \$1.27 billion by 1995, he added.

"We are now discussing developing and finalising the deal," Prince Sultan said without elaborating. "We also discussed means of increasing military co-operation."

Prince Sultan disclosed that the kingdom was "discussing with several friendly states the purchase of arms for the Saudi naval forces." He was responding to a question as to whether the Saudi government was considering new arms deals with other countries.

He refused to reveal any details. Asked to comment on the \$354-million U.S. missile deal which is facing opposition in Congress, Prince Sultan said "we have high hopes that the deal will go through."

Meanwhile British Defence Secretary George Younger began talks Tuesday with his Saudi Arabian counterpart Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz on a proposed multi-billion dollar arms sale to the kingdom.

Saudi Arabia, which signed an outline accord with London last September, invited Mr. Younger for talks on details of the deal including a requirement under the Saudi "offset programme" that 35 per cent of the value of the contract be re-invested in the kingdom.

The proposed \$4 billion (\$6 billion) sale covers 72 Tornado fighters, 30 Hawk trainers and 30 PC-3 Orion surveillance aircraft, plus missiles, training, technical support and spare parts.

Diplomats here said six of the Tornados have already been delivered and will take part in an air show Wednesday. The remaining planes are scheduled to arrive next year, they said.

The sale, Britain's biggest-ever export deal, has provoked criticism from both Israel and U.S. congressmen who urged London to cancel it.

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Masri, Muasher meet with Brazilian official

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Brazilian Foreign Ministry Middle East Department Chief Ronald Small, currently visiting Amman, held talks Tuesday with Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Rajai Muasher on means to boost enhanced cooperation between the two countries.

Mr. Small said his talks with the two ministers covered ways and means of improving bilateral relations as well as increasing possibilities for high-level contacts between the two countries.

Brazil and Jordan soon will begin implementing measures to increase cooperation, Mr. Small told the Jordan Times on Tuesday.

He described his talks as fruitful and the Brazilian official said he was extremely pleased with the way he was received in Jordan. Mr. Small made a sight-seeing tour of the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea on Tuesday, before leaving for home Tuesday evening.

Rallies mark Traffic Day

IRBID (J.T.) — Gatherings and rallies were held in Irbid and Mafrqa Tuesday to mark World Traffic Day and Arab Traffic Week.

Irbid Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin delivered a speech on the occasion in which he called for more public awareness and more care to be given to the roads and means of making them safer for travel. He said that traffic regulations and rules ought to be introduced into the school curricula to insure that children learn and respect laws and regulations.

Another speaker was the director of the police department in Irbid, who referred to the huge material and human losses resulting from road accidents and urged all citizens to take extra care in travel.

Dr. Ahmad Kamal, president of the Jordanian Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents in Irbid outlined his society's measures to help reduce road accidents and called for the introduction of new techniques in this respect.

Among the other speakers was a victim of a road accident who spoke about his sufferings and the great disaster he brought to his family, most of whom were injured in the accident.

Taken gifts were presented to two traffic policemen and veterans who have been contributing to the national effort to reduce road accidents.

In Mafrqa a similar rally was held in which several speakers, including the director of police in the governorate, addressed the audience. They all emphasised the need for new measures to improve road safety. Several pamphlets and booklets were distributed at the rally urging citizens and motorists to abide by traffic regulations. Representatives of various organisations and societies in the governorate attended the rally.

Muasher tightens imports

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Rajai Muasher has issued a communiqué urging merchants and importers of ready-made clothes and shoes to make sure that their products fit specifications appearing in the goods manifest.

The communiqué warned that the Ministry of Industry would be forced to return the goods to their original source unless the manifest provided the required information about the imported items. This measure would be applied as of July 1986, the communiqué said. The clothes manifest, according

to the communiqué, should give details about the origin of the goods, measurements, the factory or distributor and instructions for cleaning and ironing.

As to the shoes, the manifest should reveal the name and the country of the factory or distributor and importer, the type of leather used, and the measurement.

The communiqué said that the new instructions have been issued in the wake of numerous violations by local merchants and importers.

Syrian leader ends visit

(Continued from page 1)

war, Information Minister Khatib said: "The matter is basically of concern to the entire Arab Nation and it was among the subjects discussed." He did not elaborate.

In Damascus, the semi-official newspaper said on Tuesday the King and President Assad discussed the need for an international conference on the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations. It said President Assad underlined the need

for Soviet involvement in the conference as "a guarantee for Arab rights."

In Israel, a foreign ministry official was quoted as saying that Israel was unhappy over President Assad's visit to Jordan and believed that closer relations between Jordan and Syria would not advance Middle East peace.

"Syria is...unwilling to consider the peace process... (Mr. Assad's visit) does not cause us happiness," the unidentified official told reporters.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who returned to Amman on Tuesday from Stockholm, is received upon arrival by Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem (left), Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh and senior officials (Petra photo)

Seminar reviews RSS study on the impact of foreign workers in Jordan

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The socio-economic impact of foreign workers on Jordan's economy was under discussion on Tuesday during a one-day seminar at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS).

The seminar, organised by the RSS's Economic Research Department (ERD), considered research on the same subject conducted by the department.

The ERD report, entitled "The Socio-Economic Impact of Guest Workers in Jordan," shed light on economic advantages and disadvantages of guest workers and included a detailed discussion of their production as well as their impact on the balance of payments.

Outlining major excerpts of the report, the ERD Deputy Director Mohammad Amira discussed the production effect of guest workers, the effect of guest workers on the balance of payments and the consumption effects as well as wages and inflation effects.

According to the study, the negative impacts range from effects on the housing situation to health standards, as the studies showed that some foreign workers bring unknown diseases with them to Jordan.

In light of the current economic

situation in the region, which suffers from regional military clashes and the slump in international oil prices, the study recommended discouraging foreign workers by increasing the price of work permits to JD 100 per year.

Other restrictions such as monitoring workers so that they do not change their profession or residence without informing the Ministry of Labour in advance were also recommended by the study.

In addition, the report recommended laying down a local labour policy with a view to gradually replacing foreign workers with Jordanians, beginning with the services sector.

Another recommendation was to discourage non-Jordanian companies which deal with the public sector from bringing in foreign workers and to mandate that they employ not less than 60 per cent of Jordanian manpower in their projects.

The study further recommended conducting a detailed research on the social impact of foreign workers on the society. This study would focus mainly on house maids, the number of which is estimated at 10,000.

Representatives of a number of ministries, RSS researchers and the private sector attended the seminar, which was co-chaired by Ministry of Labour Under Secretary Saleh Khasawneh and Min-

istry of Occupied Territories Affairs Ahmad Qatanani.

In his discussion, Dr. Amira pointed out that foreign workers represent 26 per cent of Jordan's labour market, a high percentage compared with the seventies, when Jordan used to export manpower to Gulf Arab countries.

Of the foreign manpower, Arab workers constitute some 92.8 per cent, 98 per cent of which are from Egypt. Another 6.2 per cent of the total have come from Far Eastern countries and the percentage of technicians among them does not exceed 4.3 per cent.

The research showed that most foreign manpower is placed in Amman and 15 per cent of them have, at one point or another, changed their profession, namely from the manual labour sector into the service sector.

The study also underlined that the average of wages for Europeans is three times more than the wages of Arab workers. The Asian manpower ranks second in income.

The study urged financial firms and banks to give incentives for foreign workers to invest their money in the Kingdom. Foreign workers, the study said, have contributed 12.2 per cent to the gross domestic product and 8.5 per cent to the gross national product, despite other negative impacts of foreign manpower on the economy.

Seminar on exploiting salt resources ends

AMMAN (J.T.) — A seminar on Salt in the Arab World has called on Arab countries to employ advanced methods for developing the process of extracting salt in order to meet the ever increasing local needs, particularly in the chemical and food processing industries.

The seminar was organised by the Arab Organisation for Mineral Resources (AOMR) in cooperation with the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) and the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources.

The seminar's concluding sta-

tement also called for cooperation among Arab salt producers through conferences organised by AOMR with the purpose of achieving Arab integration.

The statement called on Arab countries to benefit from the surplus of chloride for developing production at salt factories.

Seminar participants urged Arab salt producers to abide by standard specifications set for salt processing and to find proper means for disposing of waste, and called for cooperation between Arab producers and world org-

anisations like the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation and the World Health Organisation so as to help the process of protecting the environment.

The symposium, which was held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, was addressed by Minister of Energy Hisham Al Khatib, who said that the Arab World has a salt reserve of 50,000 million tonnes of which 42,000 million are found in Jordan, mostly in the Dead Sea region.

ICHIH urges efforts to safeguard humans from nuclear dangers

AMMAN (Petra) — The Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues (ICHIH) has urged world nations to take speedy measures to contain dangers resulting from nuclear weapons, nuclear reactors and their waste.

It said in a press statement issued at the end of a three-day meeting held in Stockholm, Sweden, that world nations should introduce an early warning system to warn the world of incidents and disasters that could come about from nuclear tests and reactors used for military or peaceful purposes.

The meeting, which focused on the suspension of the East-West negotiations on disarmament and the increase in arms production said in the statement that the commission feels that a continued drive to manufacture arms would lead to a grave danger to humanity in flagrant breach of international laws. The statement called for increased efforts on the international level to give more attention to humanitarian issues and try to solve them, and also to the application of the Geneva Convention and The Hague Treaty, which provide real protection for humans against the dangers of nuclear weapons and the arms race, which cause concern and lead to catastrophes.

The massing of nuclear and chemical weapons will eventually lead to horrible incidents and disasters with countless people falling victim to them, the statement pointed out. It said that nuclear disasters have been on the increase lately and have been endangering humans and bringing destruction and damage to those nations that produce nuclear arms for their own self-protection. World countries ought to act quickly and find proper measures and means for averting such disasters and should exchange information about nuclear affairs and cooperate in controlling the consequences of nuclear accidents, the statement said.

The ICIHI communiqué called for the rehabilitation of mankind by emphasising the roles of culture and civilisation and by exploiting science and technology for serving humanity instead of employing technology for destroying civilisation.

In addition, the ICIHI paid tribute to the efforts which the late Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme had been exerting to serve the causes of peace and humanity and which, it said, are adopted by ICIHI.

The press statement referred to the humanitarian issues discussed at the meeting, which also reviewed working papers prepared by specialised groups. These dealt

with challenges facing humanity such as terrorism, the drug trade, the arms race and the threat to the environment. Participants also discussed means of developing international collective work in order to create a better atmosphere for expanding the benefits of technological advancement to the population of the whole world. Special attention was given to the problems of refugees and displaced people of the world as well as famine and drought in Africa.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who returned to Amman Tuesday morning after co-chairing the commission meeting with Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, delivered the key-note address to the opening session.

In his speech, Prince Hassan referred to the human dimension and the statistics about deprivation, misery, destruction and other horrible images confronting mankind at present. He said that these horrible things completely damage the lives of millions of people.

Prince Hassan called on world nations to find effective solutions for these tragedies and to deal with the problem of the spreading acts of violence. Nothing can justify the use of violence in our modern world, whatever the causes, because violence is practised indiscriminately against people, Prince Hassan said. He added that the assassination of Olof Palme, who had devoted his whole life to combating violence, emphasises the great threat of terrorism and violence to individuals and states.

Prince Hassan denounced acts of terrorism, which he said are directed against freedom and peaceful dialogue. He said that violence was an integral part of the plans of certain nations in the course of their drive to implement their political, ideological and economic strategies. Relations among nations should be based on reason and ratio and not on a race for stockpiling nuclear and conventional weapons for eradicating the human race, Prince Hassan asserted.

Nuclear weapons do not constitute the only threat to mankind, although they are the greatest threat of all, but also the sale of conventional and technologically advanced arms to Third World nations have brought about grave consequences to the developing countries, Prince Hassan pointed out.

He said that world powers, though they try to avoid direct confrontation, have been shifting their disputes to other parts of the world, sharply increasing world tension and continuously sapping precious resources that should have been saved for fighting the hunger that causes a million deaths annually.

Referring to political violence, Prince Hassan said that such violence seldom emerges without reason, and normally comes about as a result of social injustice, human rights violations, or a widening of social and economic gaps between the rich and the poor, all of which constitute a constant threat to peace and also a challenge to mankind.

Our duty makes it imperative to find means for uprooting all sources of disputes and conflicts by creating suitable conditions conducive to peaceful settlements and developing world political and economic orders, thus ensuring a new social order, Prince Hassan said.

Oppression and violence have different faces, and we cannot deplore one and leave the other, because there can be no justification for violence whatever its sources or degree, since it causes injustice to humanity.

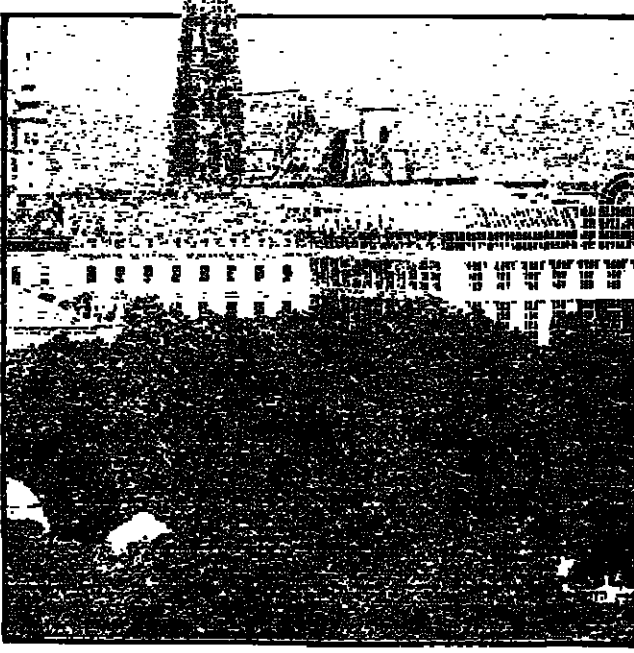
Prince Hassan warned against the catastrophic results of war in space which, he said, could easily bring destruction upon the earth.

Prince Hassan also announced that the commission plans to submit a report to the United Nations General Assembly in October about its new international humanitarian order, which envisages a world where peace and justice can prevail.

Five die in accidents

AMMAN (J.T.) — A total of five people were killed and six others injured in a number of incidents and road accidents in Jordan on Monday, according to Al Ra'i Arabic daily. The paper said a nine-year-old child, Hayel Ahmad Mahmoud, drowned in a water tank at Unim Al Basatin, another nine-year-old Mutasem Abdul Qader drowned in the East Ghor Canal; a two-year-old child, Rana Walid Ahmad died when she was knocked down by a bus in Irbid; and a 50-year-old woman, Rusieh Halashe, died in a car accident in Madaba. In that accident four other people were also injured. Two more people in South Shuneh and Mafrqa were injured in two other road accidents. The paper also reported that Rimah Abdullah died when she was knocked down by a water tanker truck near her home in Irbid.

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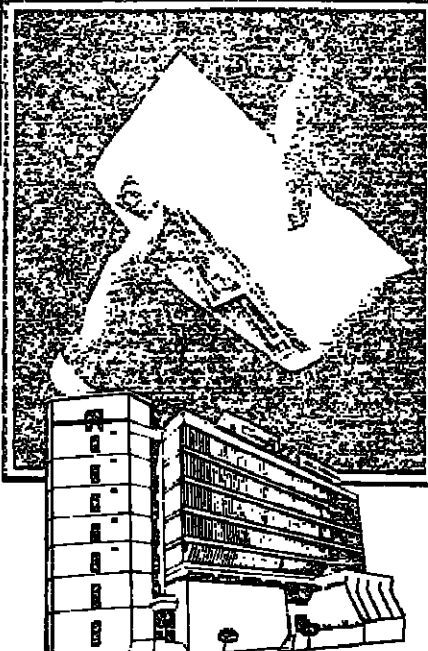
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Syria struggles to achieve growth, development

By Riad Khouri

WITH a per capita GNP lower than Jordan, Syria is not exactly a rich place. But the potential for wealth is there, and the country's economic performance up till a few years ago was not so bad. This is not just an important issue for the Syrians: their influence on strategy, culture and politics in the whole region is enormous, and the economic health of Syria could have important effects on relations with neighbouring countries. So what makes the Syrian economy tick?

Despite an ancient and still lively commercial tradition as well as a growing industrial sector, the backbone of Syria is remains agriculture. This may be the case in many developing states, but Syrian agriculture tends to be different in some respects from that of other Third World economies. First, Syria has never been monocultural (i.e. overwhelmingly dependent on one crop). All sorts of things have been grown in this part of the Middle East for millennia, in marked contrast to parts of Latin America and Africa where the rural sector tends to produce nothing but one crop. (And if this fails, the whole economy can go into crisis.) Second, Syria is not overpopulated in the bald, classic sense of the word. A simple comparison of populations

to economically productive land shows Syria to be better off than its neighbours, enjoying a lower ratio than Cyprus, Iraq, Jordan or Turkey.

Despite the decline in agriculture's share of national income, Syria remains a nation of smallholders. But the country's several thousand villages are not the only places where farmers work the land, as attested to by the orchards and gardens of Damascus and other distinctly urban areas.

The late 1940's and early 50's saw a great agricultural boom in the country, but the disastrous drought and institutional changes of the 1958-1961 period hit the rural sector quite hard. The 60's and early 70's continued to be a time of stagnation, but the influx of money from the Middle East oil producers after 1973 meant that the whole economy received a boost, and agriculture was no exception. Still, the stress remained on badly needed infrastructural and other projects, many of them in the industrial and services sector, and agriculture was relatively ignored. But things now appear to have changed. The potential for self-sufficiency in several foodstuffs exists, and the government is trying to encourage their pro-

duction as well as that of cotton. The latter provides a big chunk of Syria's export revenues, vital if you consider the country's low reserves and its big external debt.

The seriousness with which agriculture is taken by the government is reflected in its increasing share of the country's budget. This will come as welcome news to the country's farmers, but official good intentions and money may not solve the whole problem. Agriculture in the Third World is still a tricky business. All sorts of factors impinge on a developing economy's ability to feed its people and produce various crops for local industry and export. Here, Syria has done better than many other states and its agricultural sector is in reasonable shape. But other things in the turbulent Middle East often get in the way of public and private planners alike. Steady, balanced growth is the aim of both businessmen and governments and Syria has to yet achieve this and with it its great potential. The key to the whole process may be the health and wealth of the agricultural sector.

Someone once said that agriculture is the unlucky stepchild of nature and the favoured foster child of the government. The first

part of the maxim stresses the relationship between agriculture and the weather as well as other natural phenomena. Agriculture can flourish or otherwise according to the whims of nature: an attack by pests can reduce a harvest to nothing or bountiful rain can produce a bumper crop. So governments step in and intervene in various ways.

But government involvement in agriculture as well as the great institutional changes that have taken place in some Middle East rural sectors have often upset and reduced price and production levels. At the same time flight from rural areas has led to a contraction and weakening of agriculture. On the whole agriculture in the region is on the decline. What progress there is can be attributed to the deployment of vast financial resources by oil-exporters in previously non-agricultural areas. Countries which were net exporters of foodstuffs twenty years ago are now importers, due in part to bad planning. But the Middle East is basically underpopulated and the oil industry and its spinoffs have kept people fairly comfortable.

Now that oil is in slump, and with populations growing at rates which are among the highest in the

world, various Middle East economies will enter a period of crisis. The problems resulting from this may not just be downturns in growth or other economic difficulties, but broader or deeper social and other changes. And in such times, concentrating on agriculture is important because a well-fed population is unlikely to cause too much trouble. Also significant is agriculture's role in providing foreign exchange and employment, both of which have been badly hit by the current slump. Finally agricultural growth will ease the crisis of the cities and allow greater demographic balance and regional coherence within the Middle East's various states.

So Syria's concentration on agriculture is not such a bad idea. But the economy is and will remain diversified with other sectors receiving a fair amount of attention from both the public and private sectors. Oil in particular was one area on which Syria had pinned a great deal of hope before the recent price collapse. Exploration and production are continuing with a new field in the north-east scheduled to yield about 50,000 barrels per day starting in October. According to Petroleum Minister Ghazi Droubi this new

field will save "a big amount of hard currency which we were going to import for local consumption needs." The country's daily production is already around 170,000 barrels; the new field will add to this to put Syria in the ranks of the important minor producers of the region. Most of the stuff is exported and helps to pay for badly needed imports, especially arms.

This has become the key factor in today's Syrian economy. The confrontation with Israel is expensive, to put it mildly. Syria is the Soviet Union's main buyer of weapons in the Third World, having spent no less than \$19 billion on Soviet arms in the past three decades. Add to this weapons purchases from other places as well as the high cost in terms of local resources of defence against Israel, and you're left with an economy which has to make the very best use of its resources to survive and grow. Now that aid and remittances have gone down, the problem will become even more acute. By Syria is full of a wide range of natural wealth and its people are often talented and ambitious. It remains for them to find the right mixture of private and public control in the economy to develop and prosper.

'Crisis of confidence' in U.N.?

IN HIS April 30 speech to the reconvened 40th session of the United Nations, U.S. Ambassador Vernon Walters echoed the U.N. secretary-general's description of the organisation's financial crisis as "above all a political crisis." So in spite of a half-hearted attempt to blame the impending bankruptcy of the U.N. on "years of withholdings and late payments by a majority of countries," the U.S. Ambassador admitted that the real problem is "frustration on the part of the United States and, we believe, other member states that their views on the level and content of the organisation's budget are not taken seriously."

In the United States, Mr. Walters said, the resulting "crisis of confidence" in the U.N. led to the passage of the Kassebaum Amendment, which limits payments to the U.N. and other specialised agencies unless voting strength on budgetary matters within those agencies is proportional to the size of the contribution.

This attitude and approach towards international organisations by the U.S. Congress is deeply disturbing, for it directly undermines the ideals and practical principles upon which the U.N. and other international agencies are based. In the preamble to the U.N. Charter, for example, it is asserted that the U.N. was created to "reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small." A weighted voting system such as the one apparently sought by the United States would instead confirm the age-old dictum "might makes right" which the founders of the United Nations hoped to render obsolete.

As for the "crisis of confidence," which Mr. Walters blames for America's critical views of the U.N., no people on earth have better reason to lack faith in the ability of the U.N. to effectively serve its principles and ideals than we Arabs. The U.S.-led baptism by fire of the infant United Nations was the partition of Palestine in 1947 and the ensuing Arab-Israeli war which began in 1948 and has yet to end. The partition decision and the nearly 40 years of war and occupation that followed have led to the violation of virtually every principle of international cooperation and human rights set down in the U.N. Charter in 1945.

In spite of this, the Arab people continue to place their faith and hope in the United Nations and the ideals for which it stands, recognising that the U.N. represents the best chance for the peoples of the earth to live together in peaceful cooperation. The United States, by its attitude and actions towards the current financial crisis afflicting the U.N., merely reaffirms its adherence to that dictum "might makes right."

While there are many specific acts and events involving the U.S. which support this assertion, it is perhaps the United States budget itself that provides the best indication of which horse it is backing over the long run. The U.S. arrears in its payments to the U.N. for 1985 and 1986 are estimated by Mr. Walters at \$80 million. This sum represents .026 per cent of the \$300 billion or so that the Reagan administration has spent on defence each year since taking office. Put another way, if contributions to the United Nations can be considered an investment in peace, the United States spends each year on the weapons of war 3750 times the amount it is asked to spend on the outside hope of peace represented by the United Nations.

There is indeed reason for a crisis of confidence in the U.N. and the ideals it represents, but the priorities revealed by United States budgetary allocations indicate clearly that any lack of confidence is more properly directed at the U.S. rather than the U.N.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: The Amman meeting

ARAB affairs and Jordanian-Syrian relations were on the top of the agenda at the meetings held in Amman Monday by leaders of Jordan and Syria. No doubt King Hussein and President Assad are aware of the grave dangers confronting the Arab Nation and also of the need for solidarity among Arab states to confront those dangers. The present dangers allow no more room for further divisions and further disputes among Arabs, but all for serious efforts aimed at mobilising Arab resources and efforts. Common enemy threats are escalating every day and the enemy's arrogance and plots are increasing in volume and in proportion. Our enemy plans to impose hegemony and domination on our nation and, therefore, we cannot sit idle, but we have to move and to make every possible effort to thwart enemy plans and plots. The first step to be taken in this direction is to end inter-Arab differences and forge solidarity among Arab countries. We have to end the continuous bleeding in Lebanon among Arab countries. We have to end the continuous bleeding in Lebanon and bring about a liberation of our lands in Palestine and also end the Iran-Iraq war.

Al Dustour: Israel's 'war' against Austria

ISRAEL is at present swept by a wave of indignation and anger following the failure of the Zionist movement to disqualify Kurt Waldheim as a candidate for Austria's presidency. For the first time, the Israelis went out of their way to express their dismay at the situation following months of silence about it, and announced that the Zionist movement will make a thorough study of the historic documents of the World War II in order to ascertain whether Waldheim had collaborated with the Nazis. But the current anti-Austrian demonstrations in Tel Aviv show clearly Israel's anger because the Austrian people scoffed at Israeli claims about Waldheim, and who declared their full confidence in their veteran politician. Unfortunately for Israel, the Zionist movement has found no shred of evidence that Waldheim had collaborated with the Nazis, and this prompted Shimon Peres to admit that Israel can level no accusation against the man without conclusive evidence. Yet, the campaign against Waldheim is continuing, in the Israeli press and through the Zionist movement.

Sawt Al Shaab: Another step in the long march

THE meeting between King Hussein and President Assad has not only melted the ice between the two countries but brought the two peoples closer together. The meeting is one more step in a long march Jordan is leading towards bringing about total pan-Arab solidarity and strategy. Jordan has always believed in joint Arab action in confrontation with the common challenges and the common enemy. It is because Jordan is deeply committed to the principles of the Great Arab Revolt that it has never stopped its endeavours aimed at mobilising and rallying Arab efforts. The present meeting between the two leaders in Amman gives further momentum to the Jordanian drive. This country is keen to shield the nation against dangers and to insulate it against aggression.

Democracy flowers again in Sudan

By Hamza Hendawi

Reuter

KHARTOUM — The generals in Sudan are fading from the political spotlight after honouring pledges to restore democratic rule to one of the world's poorest countries.

Last month's poll to choose Sudan's first democratically-elected parliament in 17 years was calm by Third World standards, marred only by the killings of two candidates in the war-torn south where voting was postponed in 37 constituencies.

When army generals took power in the April 1985 coup that ended the 16-year rule of President Jaafar Numeiri, many people doubted their pledge to restore democracy.

But a year later, on April 26, coup leader General Abdul Rahman Swaraddahab stood before the new 301-seat constituent assembly to announce, to thunderous applause, the dissolution of his Transitional Military Council (TMC).

The assembly's first legislative act was to give the TMC ten more days in power until the formation of a proposed national unity cabinet.

In the year leading to democracy, the political scene has changed considerably in Sudan, a country of some 23 million people bordered by Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Zaire, the Central African Republic, Chad and Libya.

In contrast to Numeiri's one-party rule, more than 30 parties ranging from Communists to Muslim militants contested the general elections in which over five million people voted.

Nearly a dozen newspapers representing various political hues are on sale, freely criticising anything and anybody from Swaraddahab down.

"There is a norm in the Third World that if the military let up power, they pass it on to other military... this has been proven wrong in Sudan," said outgoing Prime Minister Al Gazouli Dafaia Allah.

"Now we have to prove wrong something else... that democracy is a plant which can never flourish on Third World soil," he told the assembly.

Dafaia Allah, whose non-party interim cabinet ruled jointly with the TMC, led protests that helped to end Numeiri's rule.

Ordinary Sudanese marked the return to democracy with a huge march in Khartoum and thronged streets leading to parliament. But despite the jubilation, many people, including politicians, appear unwilling to let go of the past.

The centrist Umma Party, the largest single group in the assembly with 99 seats, puts high on its reform programme what it says is the need to "liquidate the May regime" — a reference to the 1969 coup that brought Numeiri to power.

Adopting a popular conviction that Numeiri was responsible for Sudan's problems, the Umma hopes the incoming government will put on trial anyone suspected of corruption, power abuse or helping to perpetuate Numeiri's rule.

Numeiri's first vice-president, Omar Al Tayeb, has already been sentenced to life imprisonment on charges of corruption and helping in the transfer of Ethiopian Jews to Israel through Sudan in 1984

and 1985. Numeiri is wanted on a similar charge.

Umma leader Sadeq Al Mahdi, a British-educated former prime minister tipped to head the new government, says he plans to press demands for Numeiri's extradition from Egypt.

Two legacies of Numeiri's rule are Sharia (Islamic law), introduced in 1983, and a three-year-old civil war in the mainly Christian and pagan south of Sudan.

The rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) wants an end to what it sees as political dominance by the north; abolition of Sharia and a bigger share of state funds for development of the south.

Mahdi has spoken of moderating the implementation of Sharia to safeguard the civil rights of the religious minorities. But the National Islamic Front (NIF), which won 51 assembly seats, insists Sharia laws should not be changed.

Umma's likely partner in a national unity government, the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), has taken a vague stand on the Sharia issue. Party sources said it threatened a rift in DUP ranks between NIF sympathisers and backers of Umma's policy.

NIF leader Hassan Al Tourabi was the driving force behind the introduction of Sharia when he was a top aide of Numeiri.

On the war between government troops and the SPLA, which has a force estimated at between 10,000 and 30,000 men, the NIF is the only group advocating a tough stand on the rebels.

The SPLA has already rejected an Umma offer to share power and it labelled April's elections as partial because voting was postponed in 37 of the 68 southern constituencies.

It wants a national constitutional conference to set up an interim administration and fresh elections.

Some observers in Khartoum are concerned about the armed forces' attitude to political disputes between parties.

Mohammad Al Hassan Ahmed, a confidant of the military, wrote in the state-owned Al Sahara newspaper that political squabbling "will make possible another 'communique number one' from an army adventurer purporting to act on behalf of the people."

Western diplomats in Khartoum agree. "The military, not necessarily TMC members, will be waiting in the wings for politicians to mess things up so they can move in," one said.

Such an end to democracy in Sudan has occurred before. In 1958, General Ibrahim Aboud ended two years of democracy, while Numeiri's 1969 coup ended five years of democratic rule.

With a foreign debt estimated at \$9 billion and a budget deficit of some \$500 million, Sudan's short-term prospects for economic recovery look bleak at best, they said.

"In a country that is on the brink of bankruptcy, it is certain that some politicians prefer to be in the opposition," one said. "If no tangible results come pretty soon, whoever heads the government will be public enemy number one."

Western 'civilised values' versus 'others'

By Denis MacEoin

The writer teaches Arabic and Islamic Studies in the University of Newcastle, England. He recently edited with Ahmad al-Shahi Islam in the Modern World (Croom Helm, 1983). His article is reprinted from the Guardian.

THE night after the American raid on Tripoli last month, a U.S. Senator — wheeled on to defend his country's action against Libya — appeared on Newsnight. In the course of his interview, he referred more than once to the concept of "civilised peoples" standing together to combat the barbarism of... whom? "Uncivilised peoples?" He didn't quite say that but that has to be what he meant.

Since the middle ages, when Crusaders left their shores in boats, not F-111s, Western writers and speechmakers have indulged in an endless stream of rhetoric directed against the apparent "barbarism" of the Islamic world. Terms like "Saracen", "Moor", or "Turk" became synonymous with "Hum" or "Vandal", and with all that was most benighted in heathendom. The Venerable Bede writing in the 8th century sounds not unlike Ronald Reagan preaching in the 20th: "That most grievous pest, the Saracens, wasted and destroyed the realm of Gaul with grievous and miserable carnage, but they soon after received and suffered the due punishment of their perfidy."

Muslims were — and still are — the original "Evil empire" breathing down the necks of the West, stirring up trouble in the midst of good Christian folk. Alternately barbaric and exotic, childlike and senuous, war-like and romantic, and always steeped in the sinfulness of a false creed, for centuries they represented the only alternative culture to march side by side with the borders of Europe. There they were: along the coast of North Africa, round the Levant, in Spain or Sicily, all the way across to India — pagans in possession of much of what had once been the heartlands of Christendom and Roman Empire, not least the Holy Land itself. In the 7th and 8th centuries, waves of Muslim armies put the Christian West on the defensive; in the 15th they captured Constantinople and severed our last link with the ancient world.

Even after the Western powers pushed back the threat of Isl-

amdom in the 18th and 19th centuries, reducing country after country to colonial status, they retained — indeed, increased — their obsession with Islam as a symbol of all that ran counter to western ideals and Western ambitions.

Muslims served wonderfully well as images of the perfidious Oriental, the "Other" onto whom we could project all our own less desirable traits. We could call them irrational and feel ourselves the embodiments of rationality; we could depict them as lascivious and wanton and regard ourselves as the essences of sexual purity; we could paint them as men of blood ruled by despots and hold ourselves paragons of reasonableness, even as we stole their territories and interfered in their internal affairs. And in all of this, we could, of course, forget that they had a civilisation with roots as old as our own and a culture as complex. We were civilised, they were (and are) not.

The end of colonial rule did not bring with it the dawn of enlightenment. If anything, the pitying disapproval and paternalism of direct rule has been replaced by a new kind of racism, every bit as dangerous as anti-semitism, that sees all Muslims as "mad dogs" bent on the subversion of the brave new world of the modern West. As Edward Said succinctly puts it in his study of media treatment of the Islamic world, covering Islam, "it is only a slight overstatement to say that Muslims and Arabs are essentially covered, discussed, apprehended, either as

oil suppliers or as potential terrorists."

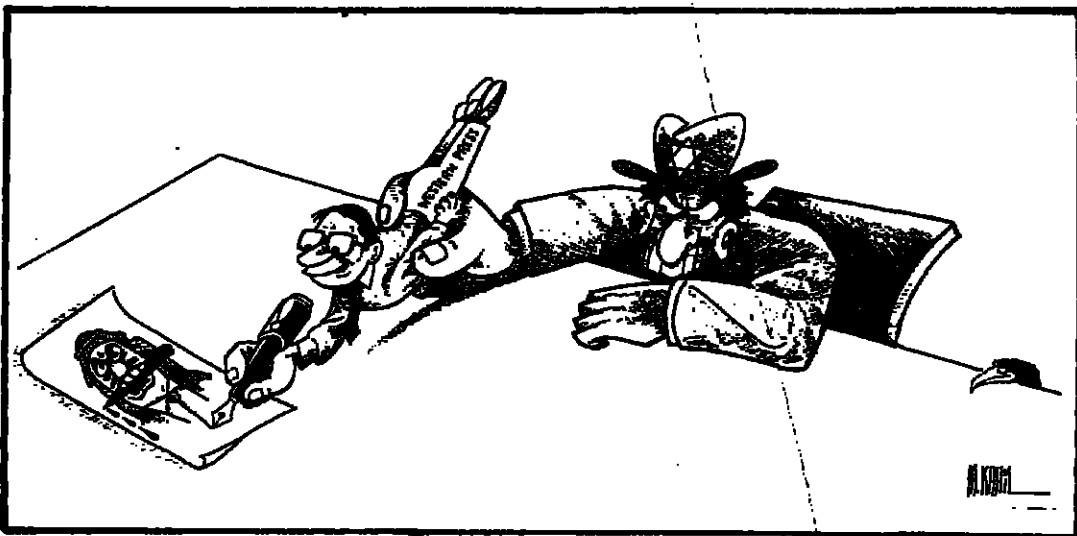
From the Musaddeq crisis and Suez through to the Iranian revolution and the growth of Shi'ism in Lebanon, the western media have perpetuated myths and fed prejudices that would in any other context and directed against any other people have been ruled out of court from the word "go." For most Westerners — leaders as well as the man and woman in the street — there is something going on "out there," in a vaguely-defined Islamic realm, typified by the stereotypes of fanaticism, fundamentalism, obscurantism, martyrdom-obsession, and terrorism. In a classically racist manner, such traits are seen as peculiarly characteristic of Arabs, Iranians, Pakistanis, or other non-white, non-Christian people, while our own fundamentalists and terrorists are conveniently ignored as unrepresentative of our society. Indeed, by one of those ironies that reveal basic contradictions in our affairs, we are forced to witness pompous Christian fundamentalists using Islamic fundamentalism as a foil to assert their own adherence to "civilised values." ("Victorian values" perhaps?).

Of course there is much wrong in the Islamic world, just as there is in ours. Islamic fundamentalists are no more endearing than our Moral Majority, and terrorists are terrorists and reprehensible whether they plant bombs in the name of Marx or Muhammad. Qadhafi's

regime, with its brutal treatment of dissidents and its support for terrorist action abroad is utterly condemnable. But so for that matter are many regimes in sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and elsewhere, many of whom Mr. Reagan sees fit to support as bastions of freedom.

If we really believe we have values to offer people living in countries still struggling to make sense of the post-colonial world, we shall not do so by dropping bombs on their cities, by proclaiming yet again (as we did in the Falklands) that might is right, or by invoking the obscene image of Rambo as the guardian of civilisation. Have several decades of intervention in the Islamic world taught the Americans nothing? Did Iran not show them how difficult it is to cow people who have faith and a sense of purpose on their side?

A few weeks ago, Paul Johnson wrote in the Daily Telegraph that the Americans are "morally superior." Perhaps this latest adventure in the worship of brute force will serve to show how very far from the truth that is. Ronald Reagan may be unaware of it, but there are those in the Islamic world who know very well what counts as civilised behaviour and what sort of actions confer moral superiority. It is now time the new barbarism was stopped: in its tracks, time to show an increasingly scornful Muslim world that we too are civilised people with values worth emulating — The Guardian.



The occupied territories: Squeeze on funds

By Daoud Kuttab

PALESTINIANS in the occupied territories are deeply concerned about their economic future, in particular that the concept of *sumud* (steadfastness) is rapidly wearing thin as financial support for the occupied territories drops sharply as a result of the drop in the price of oil and the consequent expulsion of many Palestinian workers from the Gulf.

Support by Arab states for institutions in the occupied territories has been declining dangerously for the past few years. The 1978 Baghdad Arab summit ruled that \$500 m a year be set aside by Arab governments to bolster *sumud* in the occupied territories. Universities were told to expand, industries to buy machinery, individuals to organise themselves in cooperatives and apply for loans and grants. The funds were to be channelled through a joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee based in Amman, in which Jordan and the PLO would have equal say. The

high hopes of 1978 have now all but faded. Libya never paid its contribution. Iraq asked to be excused as a result of its war with Iran, leaving essentially only the Gulf states. Then the Gulf states also stopped paying as a result of their immense economic backing for Iraq, leaving Saudi Arabia as the sole Arab country paying its dues.

The effect here has been disastrous. The Jerusalem Electric Company, for example, is fighting to remain independent as an Arab company, under a burden of debts now totalling \$12 m, accumulated through overmanning and the company's insistence on retaining its unprofitable generating plant. It now faces a no-win situation: either it loses everything to its creditor, the rival Israeli electric company, or gives up supplying electricity to Jewish settlements in the Jerusalem area in return for the Israelis extending its concession (due to expire next year) and writing off its debts.

Palestinian universities, which depend almost exclusively on joint

committee funds, are in a similar predicament. On the basis that if Palestinian youths continued their higher education in Palestine, emigration, often permanent, of young people would be discouraged, the universities embarked on a process of expansion against the promise of future funds. But when they asked for these funds they discovered that the joint committee was unable to meet its commitments. Bir Zeit University, the leading university in the occupied territories, was forced in March to cancel the contracts of all teachers and staff. University officials say they are running up a \$6 m deficit. Although the university plans to rehire most of the staff, major cuts in salaries are expected. Other universities face similar financial difficulties.

Housing projects have also come to a standstill following the suspension of loans. Loans to industry and agriculture have also been drastically cut back, while stipends paid to unemployed gra-

duates have been stopped. Support for charities and youth clubs has been cut to a bare minimum.

The oil crisis is going to affect the general economy of the West Bank and Gaza in another way. Remittances from Palestinians in the Gulf have started to decrease as workers there are laid off. 350,000 Palestinians work in Kuwait, and over half a million in Saudi Arabia and the rest of the Gulf. It is estimated that their remittances account for over 35 per cent of the total GNP of the occupied territories. Equally alarming from a social point of view is the future of these workers. Many left the West Bank before 1967 and therefore cannot return. Others are refugees who normally travel on Lebanese-issued travel documents. In 1982 the Lebanese stopped renewing these documents. The fear is that these Palestinians will find themselves stranded in airport lounges with no country in the world willing to admit them — Middle East International, London.

Common-looking stones provide clues to early man's behaviour

By Boris Weintraub
National Geographic

MARTINSVILLE, Va. — To the untrained eye, they are very ordinary pieces of stone. Coming across one of them in a field, you would think nothing of it.

But when John W.K. Harris looks at these little pieces of quartz, he sees something different. He sees the tiny markings that tell him that each piece was deliberately chipped away from a larger, core piece, and show him how those stones were used, perhaps to dig up an edible plant or to butcher a pig.

"They are definitely from the hand of man," says Harris, gesturing toward a pile of rocks lying on green felt in the Virginia Museum of Natural History here. "In studying them, we are sampling

the behaviour of the earliest humans."

Discovered in Zaire

Harris is talking about some 300 stone tools discovered, along with a group of animal bones and teeth, in a valley in eastern Zaire. By studying the animal remains, he and his colleagues have concluded that the tools are at least 2 million and perhaps 2.5 million years old — among the three oldest collections of tools known.

But it is more than mere age that makes these tools special. It is the fact that they were found in a part of Africa, known as the Western Rift Valley, that had been largely unexplored by scientists searching for the evolutionary origins of modern man. The discovery of the stone tools, probably used by a human ancestor known

as *Homo habilis* — "handy man" — suggests a new area of Africa in which to study those origins.

A Belgian geologist, Jean de Heinzelin, had discovered a few early stone tools in the Semliki Valley of what was then the Belgian Congo in the late 1950s. But exploration and research in the area halted in the turbulent years after the country became independent Zaire in 1960.

Meanwhile, a series of remarkable discoveries caused scientists to shift their attention eastward, toward the Eastern Rift Valley in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania, and to the caves on the high plateau steppes of South Africa.

In 1982, Noel T. Boaz, a paleo-anthropologist who now is director of the Virginia Museum of Natural History, decided to go back and look at the Semliki Val-

ley. He was searching for some indication of where, in evolutionary terms, the early primates split apart, some finally becoming modern apes, others developing eventually into human beings.

"I went there because I was interested in hominid origins, the very first ape-human split," Boaz says. "I think the Western Rift is where the split appears."

Semliki Valley expedition

Despite logistical difficulties, Boaz found it possible to work in Zaire with government cooperation. He worked in the Semliki Valley over the next few years and increased the size and diversity of his team. He returned last summer with Harris and Alison S. Brooks, a professor of anthropology at George Washington University and a research associate with the Smithsonian Institution.

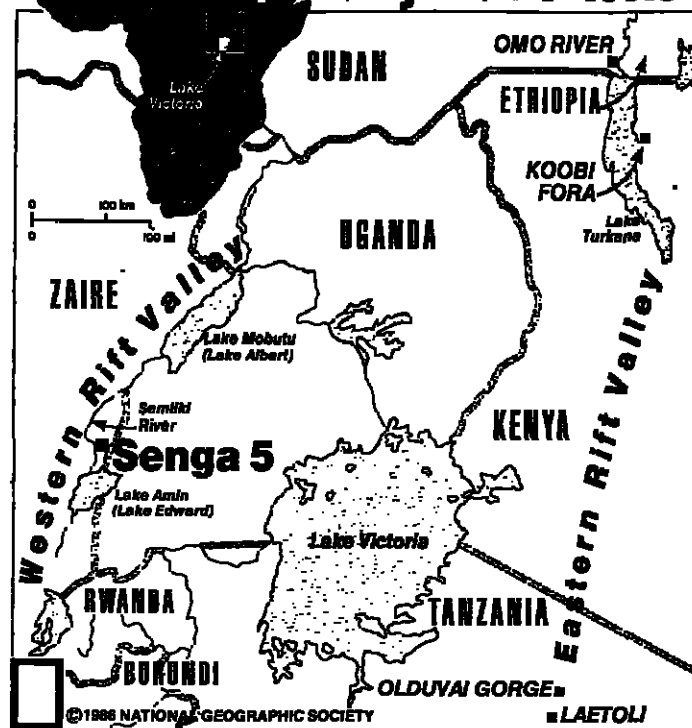
Financial support has come from the National Geographic Society, the National Science Foundation, Earthwatch, the Louis S.B. Leakey Foundation, the Wenner-Gren Foundation, and the scientists' home institutions.

The collection of tools, bones and teeth was found on a site dubbed Senga 5. Some tools were found on the surface, and when the team established their importance, Harris opened a 12-square-metre excavation which yielded the larger collection. Significantly, the tools and animal remains were found together.

Harris, who has spent 15 years studying the behaviour of early human ancestors on many of the most significant African hominid sites, describes the tools as "simple, Oldowan-like cobbles, flakes, and cores." Oldowan is the name given to the tools found at Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania, probably the best-known early tool-producing site, estimated to be 1.8 million years old.

Only two other sites at which tools were found have been dated

African Sites for Early Man's Tools



at more than 2 million years old. Both are in Ethiopia in the Eastern Rift: the Omo River Valley, considered to be about 2.3 million to 2.4 million years old, and Hadar in the Middle Awash Valley, estimated to be between 2.4 million and 2.6 million years old.

The animals whose remains were found on the Senga 5 site include pigs, whose evolutionary development is one of the most significant aids to dating; antelopes; giraffes; elephants; and a three-toed horse known as *Hipparion*.

Site may be older

The modern horse, *Equus*, apparently has not turned up. If further research does not find *Equus*, the date of the site could be pushed back to earlier than 2.3 million years, when the modern horse first appears in the fossil record, Boaz says.

One of the many reasons the team will return to the Semliki Valley for further research is that the climate there is far wetter and the region much more densely vegetated than the dry savanna of the Eastern Rift sites. The Congo rain forest, for example, begins west of the Semliki and extends all the way to the Atlantic Ocean.

Was there substantial rainfall 2 million years ago, too? Were there nourishing plants that human ancestors could eat? Or were they obliged to use their tools to kill or butcher their fellow creatures to obtain food?

These are among the questions the Boaz team hopes to answer as it uses the tools of modern science to study the tools of early man.

Soviet accident raises questions about U.S. plans

By Irwin Arief

Reuter

WASHINGTON — If an accident similar to the one in the Soviet Union hit a U.S. nuclear power plant, government and industry officials say they are confident they could safely evacuate the population from the affected area.

But some outside experts say that panic, bad weather or even an accident of geography could turn the best-laid plans for an orderly evacuation into a shambles.

"For a range of nuclear accidents, an evacuation can be handled but for others, there will be casualties and confusion," said San Jose, California, nuclear consultant Steven Sholly.

"If everyone tries to evacuate and gets caught in a big traffic jam and a nuclear plume (of debris from the damaged plant) lays down a big dose of radiation, people will be in big trouble and there'll be no way for them to even know it."

Sholly said the situation would be even worse if snow made the roads difficult to use or rain washed radioactive debris from the plume on to the fleeing populace.

After the Soviet accident at Chernobyl, news reports said the government evacuated a zone 18 miles around the plant site where an estimated 25,000 people lived.

U.S. officials estimate that radiation levels at the site could have been high enough to cause "severe physical trauma including death" but the Soviet government has said the accident caused only two deaths and 18 serious injuries.

After the 1979 nuclear accident at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania, the U.S. government ordered utility companies to prepare plans to evacuate a zone with a 10-mile radius around every nuclear plant operating at full power.

There are 66 such plants. The plans rely on coordinated action by the utility and federal, state and local governments and they must be tested and approved by the federal government every time a plant's licence comes up for two-yearly renewal before federal regulators.

"It's not a case of doing a plan and then letting it sit on the shelf," said Samuel Speck, associate director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the body responsible for evaluating the plans and approving them.

"It has to be shown to work," he said.

Only rarely are people actually evacuated in the tests. No alarms are rung, no announcements made, no people moved and no traffic re-routed. Officials simply report to their posts and stand by to carry out their assigned tasks.

The Calvert Cliffs nuclear power plant in Lusby, Maryland, became the first U.S. plant to seek such a reduction from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in November, 1985.

"They may simulate evacuation from a school, a nursing home or a few houses but in no way do they practise an evacuation," Sholly said. "What is tested is largely the capability of the command and control system."

To back up government claims that evacuation plans work, federal officials point to Hurricane Gloria last summer, when 1.5 million Americans were evacuated along the Atlantic seaboard.

In some areas, licences have been held up because officials could not produce a workable plan.

One such area is Long Island, New York, a sliver of land to the east of Manhattan inhabited by 2.8 million people. In the event of an accident at the Shoreham nuclear power plant there, federal rules would require most of the people of Long Island to drive to Manhattan.

"There are only five roads leading out of Long Island to Manhattan and on a good day it takes two and a half hours to get there," said Suffolk County official Frank Jones.

In theory, there are enough roads for all residents within 10 miles of the Shoreham plant to drive to Manhattan but Jones said the experience at Three Mile Island showed that an evacuation of Long Island simply couldn't take place.

At Three Mile Island, he said, when Pennsylvania officials called for the evacuation of about 2,800 pregnant women and children living within five miles of the plant, an estimated 144,000 people got into their cars and tried to flee.

Jones said a county study concluded that this kind of contagious panic would lengthen the time needed to drive to Manhattan to about 13 hours, causing an estimated 1,200 immediate deaths from radiation and 10,000 to 12,000 deaths from cancer later.

Because government officials have not been able to draft a viable evacuation plan, the Shoreham plant may never get a licence to operate at full power.

Industry representatives are confident that, even in the event of an accident, radioactive material will be confined to a very small area. They say U.S. plants, unlike the one at Chernobyl, are surrounded by thick concrete and steel containment structures that would keep in radioactive debris.

For that reason, the industry began lobbying the government several months before the Soviet accident to reduce the evacuation zone to two miles.

The Calvert Cliffs nuclear power plant in Lusby, Maryland, became the first U.S. plant to seek such a reduction from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in November, 1985.

Photo exhibit captures the Arab city

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Showing the streets of Beirut in the 1920's, the Damascus skyline of 1898, a wintry view of Jerusalem in 1910, Baghdad of 1909 and many, many more is an exhibition of old photographs of the Middle East at the Petra Bank Art Gallery this week. Endlessly fascinating, these old sepia-toned black and white photographs give us an intriguing glimpse of the region as it appeared, a hundred or so years ago.

This unique collection of around 60 enlarged reproductions of photographs taken around the turn of the century has been compiled over the last nine years by Dr. Noussef Kobeissi, who manages a computer company in Beirut. Dr. Kobeissi started the collection back in 1974 as a hobby when he discovered some old postcards and photographs of Beirut in Paris.

"It was very nostalgic to see what had changed over the years and what had remained the

same," Dr. Kobeissi told the Jordan Times.

Although it was difficult to find photos in good condition, Dr. Kobeissi corresponded with specialists in the field, placed advertisements and sifted through boxes of old photographs in salerooms, gradually increasing his collection to the extent that he was forced to move to a larger house in order to accommodate it.

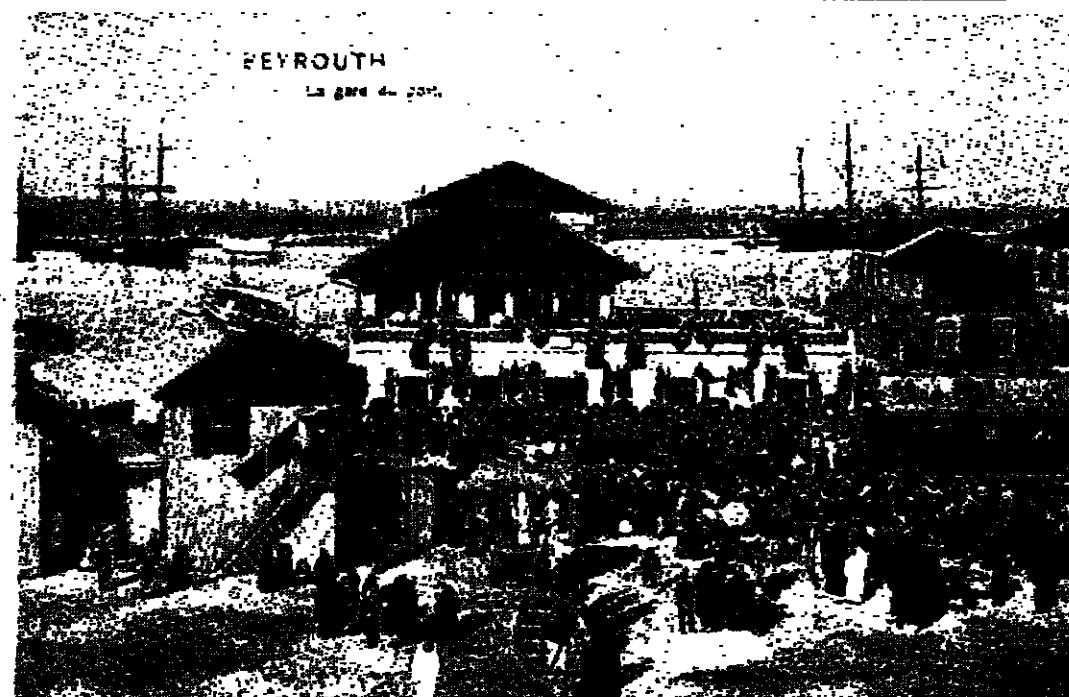
For this exhibition, Dr. Kobeissi had the photographs reproduced in Paris and the realistic quality of the photos in general is exceptional. The large clear prints, bustle with life and detail, and Dr. Kobeissi has arranged them so that they form a kind of "promenade" through the Middle East.

On entering the exhibition the first photograph is a shot of the Port of Beirut taken in 1895. You can almost imagine sailing in one of the beautifully majestic masted ships and stepping off to lose yourself in the crowd that, like today, wears an assortment of Western and Arabic dress. Alt-

hough there are plenty of Turkish flags everywhere there is not a single car in sight, so to get to the "place des Canons" you would have had to travel by the horse and covered carriage which appear in nearly every photograph.

Going down through Sidon, you eventually arrive in Damascus. Taking in Aleppo, Latakia, and Hama you cross over into Palestine and from there the photographs take you on an extensive tour of Jordan and the Holy Land. Here is Nabulus, Mount Carmel, Nazareth, Jericho, Amman, Zarka, Bethlehem, Salt, Aqaba at the beginning of the twentieth century, and there is Jerusalem, her glory revealed in a fantastic panoramic view — three meters in length — taken in 1897.

Saudi Arabia follows, and after watching the pilgrims disembark from a small rickety boat that has travelled the length of the Red Sea, we travel onto Mecca. With a few photographs of Baghdad showing Exchange Square as it was in 1930 the exhibition comes to an end.



Photos such as this print of Beirut in 1920 may be seen in the collection entitled "Arab Cities Yesterday Through Old Photographs," now appearing at the Petra Bank Art Gallery through May 8th.

It is a remarkable collection of great variety and scope and almost certainly the only one of its kind in private hands. This exhibition of great historical interest may be seen until May 8th.

Manila's hunt for the Marcos fortune

It is not proving easy for Manila to recover the fortune allegedly stashed away by ex-president Marcos. The Aquino government has abandoned political pressure, and is relying on the courts. Alain Cass in London, Samuel Senoren in Manila, Nancy Dunne in Washington, and William Dullforce in Geneva, report.

THE Philippines government has effectively abandoned its attempts to recover through political pressure the fortune stashed abroad by Mr. Ferdinand Marcos, the deposed president, his family and associates.

Instead, it has embarked on the long and costly process of recovering the assets through the courts, an exercise likely to take years and one which may yield only a fraction of the estimated \$5 billion to \$10 billion believed to have been acquired by Mr. Marcos during his 20 years in office.

In doing so, it is raising important issues of international law and banking ethics last aired when the Iranian government tried, and largely failed, to recover the former Shah's assets.

The Commission for Good Government, appointed by President Corason Aquino to recover the Marcos millions, has so far identified only about \$900 million held in the Philippines and elsewhere. Much of that is held by nominees in an intricate web of holding companies scattered throughout the world to conceal the identity of the beneficial owners.

Some assets — notably real estate — would yield a good deal less than their book value if sold because they are heavily mortgaged. The rest — substantial cash and gold bullion believed to run into billions of dollars — are so well concealed that intensive investigation in the U.S., Switzerland and elsewhere has so far failed to yield any positive leads.

"Marcos and his cronies seem to have been well prepared for such an eventuality," said one Filipino

official. "It could take years to get some of the money back."

The commission has set up investigative teams in the U.S. and Switzerland in the first instance. It has decided to concentrate its efforts in those two countries but it suspects Mr. Marcos also has substantial assets in the U.K., Australia, Italy, Canada, Japan, Brazil, Austria and elsewhere.

The chief problem facing the investigators is proving beyond doubt that assets which are identified belong to the Marcos family and that they were acquired illegally to the satisfaction of foreign courts.

Their efforts are hampered by their inexperience and lack of investigative and legal resources. The commission relies largely on tips from sympathisers and the help of unpaid expatriates abroad.

Their only tangible success so far has been to seize over \$300 million in real estate, cash and shares held on behalf of Mr. Marcos by his associates in the Philippines.

The commission suspects Mr. Marcos may have up to \$1.5 billion in Swiss deposits. So far only \$79.4 million has been identified. The commission has also failed to obtain proof of deposits in Tokyo and property in the U.K. — believed to amount to more than \$14 million — and elsewhere.

The U.K. Foreign Office has made it clear that the Philippines would have to go through the courts to recover assets in the U.K. and its Cayman Islands colony.

Senator Jovito Salonga, who heads the commission, said Mr. Marcos and his financial managers

resorted primarily to the device of setting up companies and properties owned by close associates like Mr. Roberto Benedicto, the former Philippines ambassador and sugar magnate.

Another ploy was to use companies incorporated in the Netherlands Antilles which, in turn, are owned by another set of corporations registered in Panama.

This device was used to conceal Marcos ownership of valuable property in New York ostensibly owned by the brothers Joseph and Ralph Bernstein who acted as brokers and trustees for the former First Family.

The commission's early optimism that the U.S., Swiss and other governments would agree to a "political" disposition of the hidden wealth has dissipated. Promises of help from the U.S. Administration have not materialised, according to Filipino investigators, while the Swiss federal government, for all its goodwill towards Mrs. Aquino, appears unwilling to ride roughshod over the country's banking secrecy laws.

Confirmation that some Marcos wealth is held in Swiss banks came from the banking commission, the controlling authority, on April 10.

These deposits have been temporarily frozen by the Swiss authorities. It is now up to the Aquino government to provide evidence to prove open Swiss banking secrecy. Swiss banking law makes the customer "master of the secret."

It is a penal offence for bank officials to disclose any information. The matter is complicated by the fact that the known deposits are not in Mr. Marcos's name. Notes among the papers seized by U.S. customs officials in Hawaii after Mr. Marcos fled the Philippines refer to \$79.4 million deposited in three Swiss banks in

1977 by Mr. Benedicto.

Swiss banking secrecy is not absolute. Banks can disclose information if authorised by the customer — unlikely in this case — or where criminal charges have been laid. Tax fraud is not enough, however. Criminal acts, as in cases involving the mafia, have to be proved.

The Aquino government is under pressure to push through criminal and civil charges against Mr. Marcos which are punishable both in Switzerland and the Philippines under the "dual criminality" standard. Swiss bankers, irritated by the government's action, fear that the country's lucrative international reputation for banking secrecy could be tarnished if the Aquino government is given exceptional leeway.

The Aquino government has started proceedings by filing charges in Manila against Mr. Marcos, his wife, Imelda, and three children, as well as 21 associates, alleging they illegally amassed wealth after the former leader came to power in 1965.

But these have been blocked under a technicality which says that criminal proceedings cannot be heard without an arraignment of Mr. Marcos and there can be no arraignment without his physical presence. "We are stuck," admitted a commission official.

The hope is that the mere filing of charges in Manila will satisfy Swiss law. The next step would be for the courts in Switzerland to instruct all banks there to disclose Marcos assets followed by a request for sequestration of those assets in individual cantonal courts.

Mr. Salonga believes the prospects of recovering the Swiss assets are "more than 50 per cent." Lawyers, however, point out that



similar attempts to recover the Swiss wealth of other deposed rulers have nearly all ended in failure.

The Philippines is likely to face similar problems in the U.S., where proceedings to recover property and assets in New York, Texas, New Jersey and California have been instigated in state courts. The charges allege that Mr. Marcos bought the properties through stolen funds which belong to the Filipino people.

The commission's best chance

of success lies in recovering the five New York properties worth an estimated \$350 million. The House Asian and Pacific Affairs sub-committee, chaired by Mr. Stephen Solarz, the New York Democrat, has completed an investigation primarily aimed at proving the properties belong to Mr. Marcos.

Recently, the Bernstein brothers have offered to sell the New York buildings and turn over the proceeds to Mrs. Aquino. Financial Times news feature.

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Int'l Tennis Federation president condemns shelving open Olympics

LONDON (R) — International Tennis Federation (ITF) President Philippe Chatrier has accused Olympic leaders of hypocrisy in shelving a plan to open the games to professional athletes.

The Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) insisted at a meeting in Seoul last month it needed more time to study the draft "athletes' code" unanimously approved by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) executive board.

But Chatrier, in the current ITF president's newsletter, said ANOC had rejected the plan and that his reaction was "one of out-

rage and despair."

"Just when it seemed as if we were all set to usher in a new era of good sense and realism in the Olympics... politics and total hypocrisy have struck a heavy blow," he said.

Tennis is scheduled to return to the Olympics at the 1988 Seoul games after an absence of 64 years, but is likely to flop if top professionals are not free to enter.

Chatrier said he hoped the proposals could be resurrected and approved in time to allow the world's best tennis players to compete in Seoul.

Otherwise, he said, "it would certainly mean we would be unlikely to have anything more than third-class Olympic tennis champions."

"The whole thing is terrible. It is an accepted fact that the French soccer team which won the gold medal in Los Angeles in 1984 was composed exclusively of professionals paid by their clubs back home," he added.

He asked: "Why cannot everyone simply be open and honest about the natural development of professionalism in sport and stop living such a lie?"

After the ANOC meeting IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch said in Seoul the IOC would continue to work with the ITF to find a means of admitting tennis professionals to the 1988 Olympic tournament.

He said the ANOC decision to shelve the draft athletes' code did not necessarily exclude the possibility of the world's top tennis players taking part in the Seoul event.

England striker spurns hat-trick chance

LONDON (R) — Gary Lineker sacrificed the chance of his fifth hat-trick of the season Monday night to strike a psychological blow for Everton before Saturday's English F.A. Cup final against Liverpool.

The England striker had already scored twice against West Ham in the battle to clinch the £25,000 (£37,500) prize for finishing second in the league when Ray Stewart handled to give away a penalty.

But Lineker declined the chance, letting Trevor Steven take the kick that clinched Everton's 3-1 win.

Lineker, who has paid off his £800,000 (\$1,200,000) transfer fee with 39 goals in his first season at Everton including 30 in the league, said: "I took a penalty at Leicester last season when I was on a hat-trick — and missed it. It taught me a lesson."

"It was more important for Trevor to knock one in before the cup final. It gives him a lift in case we get a penalty at Wembley. I was

quite satisfied with two. It is the first time I've got 30 in the league and that was the magical milestone for me," he added.

Having recovered from injury, Lineker is set to play a key role in Saturday's final when Liverpool will be trying to add to the league title they won four days ago. Everton manager Howard Kendall commented: "When Gary is injury-free you see something special. He is a totally different player."

"Mentally he hasn't felt right in certain games because of injuries but he has been absolutely superb in the last couple of games," Kendall added.

Against West Ham, Everton were without four first team players — Derek Mountfield, Peter Reid, Graeme Sharp and Paul Bracewell — but all are expected to be fit by Saturday.

Their absence gave Kendall the chance to take a look again at England under-21 striker Paul Wilkinson who set up the first goal, won the penalty and also hit a post.

West Ham needed only a draw to finish second but were playing their fifth game in ten days and manager John Lyall admitted: "It was hard for us. We were obviously very tired physically and

just couldn't match Everton's running power."

But his side have finished higher than ever before and Lyall added: "It has been a marvellous season and it's great to finish among the top people. It gives us something to look forward to next season."

Meanwhile, Oxford United manager Maurice Evans is hoping that his team can follow the example of West Ham and storm up the first division next season.

Oxford had hardly beaten Arsenal 3-0 Monday to make sure of staying in the top division before Evans was looking forward to the following season.

FISA halts new car models for rallying and limits distance to 600 kilometres

PARIS (R) — The International Motor Sport Federation (FISA) on Tuesday announced safety measures for rallying including an immediate halt to new designs in sports and touring cars and a race distance limit of 600 kilometres.

Federation President Jean-Marie Balestre said the nine-point package of measures proposed last week had been accepted by a majority of FISA members after the death of Finnish driver Henri Toivonen and his co-driver Sergio Cresto in the Corsican Rally.

Group B sports cars — denounced by critics as Formula One cars in disguise — will be outlawed from the start of next year, except for certain less powerful models, Balestre said.

He said FISA would make a short-term study of turbo and four-wheel-drive cars to examine whether restrictions were needed for those models.

Balestre defended FISA and

the Corsican Rally against drivers, who said their attempts to point out dangers in the event had not been heeded.

"It is not possible to make changes three days before the event," said Balestre. But he admitted that FISA's actions now were prompted by "the considerable emotion" of drivers' reactions to the recent deaths.

The measures for the current season include: — An immediate halt to approvals of new types of car for Group B (sports cars) and Group A (touring cars);

— A ban on aerodynamic skirts from May 20;

— A 600-kilometre limit on the length of rallies;

— A rule to require all Group B cars to install an automatic fire extinguisher system.

FISA also approved, beginning next year:

— Cancellation of the Group S (special rally cars) due to begin in

1988;

— A ban on Group B cars in general, but FISA will issue a list of acceptable less powerful models later;

— A ban on certain materials, such as aluminium and plastic, in all groups;

— Creation of a new world rally championship reserved exclusively for mass-produced cars (that is, models with sales above 5,000);

— A FISA study of new conditions under which Group B cars could be used.

The 600-kilometre limit will cut about 70 kilometres off the next round of the world championship, the Acropolis Rally in Greece at the end of the month. It will reduce the Corsican Rally, an event of 1,603 kilometres, by almost half next year.

The limit applies to all rallies in Europe, Argentina and New Zealand, but not to the Safari event in Ivory Coast, Balestre said.

Jordan to regulate wrestling matches after 'farce' performances

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Wrestling Federation (JWF) has described American free style wrestling matches held in Amman recently as a farce and said that in the future no such matches will be held without JWF prior approval.

The announcement was made by JWF President Ibrahim Al Awamleh at a meeting with reporters held at the Palace of Sports.

Mr. Awamleh said that American free style wrestling is governed by international regulations but it seeks to make profit and not is meant as an art.

Therefore, he said, this kind of sport is completely incompatible with Olympic rules and is devoid of sound sports' principles and ethics.

Accordingly, the JWF has decided that no more such wrestling events will be held in Jordan except through clubs affiliated to the JWF which in turn can coordinate matters with the International Wrestling Federation.

The JWF has sent a letter to the Sour Baher Club which organised the matches denouncing the behaviour of some of its members and also explaining JWF rules.

Mr. Awamleh explained that the JWF will focus its attention on training people and will continue to encourage only friendly wrestling events to be held in Jordan.

Sour Baher Club is not a JWF member but the federation had to accept the deal and allow the matches to be held after realising that the club had already signed a contract with the American wrestlers, Mr. Awamleh pointed out.

He said that the club had made a deal with the wrestlers to collect only 6.5 per cent of the proceeds and that JD 3,500 will be paid to the JWF in return for its approval.

But he said that the JWF was surprised that very few people attended the matches, and it was later revealed, that the participants in the matches were only lower grade wrestlers gathered from Europe and the United States.

Most importantly, Mr. Awamleh said, the JWF has not been able to cash the cheque of Sour Baher Club after it was returned for insufficient funds.

'Sports for Africa' starts in Amman next week

AMMAN (Petra) — A week-long programme of activities under the slogan of "Sports for Africa" will open in Amman on May 10.

The programme will be implemented by the Ministry of Youth in coordination with the United Nations International Children's Educational Fund (UNICEF).

The programme includes a basketball match between the Orthodox Club and Al Ahli Club to be held at the Hussein Sports City and a handball match between the Arab Club and Al Salt Club at Yarmouk University's grounds to be held on May 18.

Cubans give Stevenson little chance to win championship

HAVANA (R) — For the first time in more than a decade, Cuban boxing fans and writers alike do not give their country's three-time super-heavyweight boxing champ Teofilo Stevenson much of a chance to win the gold in the International Amateur Boxing championship set to begin next weekend in Reno, Nevada.

Stevenson, who also has two world amateur boxing championships to his credit, has won 292 of his 304 fights in a career that spans almost two decades.

The thirty-four-year-old Cuban, whose father came to this island from neighbouring Jamaica to cut sugar cane, once turned down a million dollars to turn professional and fight Muhammad Ali.

He refused on the grounds that it would mean abandoning Cuba where he is an elected delegate to the national assembly. Stevenson lost to the Soviet Union's Viatcheslav Yakolev, won unconvincingly over fellow-Cuban Felix Lemus, lost badly to the East German Ulli Kaden and looked miserable in his loss to a mediocre Cuban novice, Osvaldo Castillo, two months ago.

In his match with Castillo, Stevenson was slow and clumsy, unable, as before, to keep his opponent off with his powerful left jab or floor him with his once devastating right hand.

Injuries may determine outcome of Champions' Cup

SEVILLE, Spain (R) — Wealthy Barcelona and Steaua Bucharest, the first communist-bloc country to reach the European Cup soccer final, both gave injury problems Tuesday as the reason for delaying team selection for Wednesday's match.

Neither manager will name his line-up until shortly before the kick-off, though this has now become a recognised part of the war of nerves preceding major finals.

The biggest doubt concerns Barcelona's Scottish striker Steve Archibald, who underwent specialist treatment in The Netherlands last week for his long-term thigh injury.

With a place in the Scots' World Cup 22 at stake, Archibald is desperate to play and he seems likely to make an appearance at some stage of the game.

"I think it's safe to say he'll take part," said Barcelona's English manager Terry Venables, "but he may not play the entire 90 minutes."

Not to be outdone, Romanian counterpart Emmerich Jenei came up with two names in the "doubtful" category, central defender Adrian Bumbescu and striker Gavril Balint.

Both invalids looked surprisingly healthy in training and their recovery seems assured, though the Romanian army team will be without suspended captain Tudorei Stoica.

Barcelona, bidding to win the Champions' Cup for the first time and make up for a season of disappointments on the domestic front, will not make the mistake of underestimating their little-known opponents.

"From videos, my impression is that they are very similar in style to Dynamo Kiev and the Soviets looked very impressive in beating Atletico Madrid in last week's Cup Winners' Cup final," said Venables.

Having said that, I think we've spotted a few weaknesses and

we'll be out to expose these."

Although Steaua are the first Romanian team to contest a European final, the wary Jenei has proved himself to be an avid reader of the book of clichés every soccer manager keeps on his bedside table.

"Our chances are 50-50," he said. "And we won't be intimidated by the crowd in the Lus Pizjuan stadium. We won't be playing 80,000 spectators, just 11 men."

Jenei then turned lyrical when he explained Steaua's football philosophy. "We model ourselves on the Latin style of play, fast, imaginative and ambitious football. Our best quality is our love of the game."

Steaua have certainly produced those Latin skills in training, though Monday night's practice session in the Villamarin stadium did not start well.

The Romanians arrived at the ground to discover local officials were in Madrid for an audience with King Juan Carlos. When, after a long wait, Steaua were finally allowed into the stadium they had to train in the dark for 30 minutes before an electrician arrived to turn on the floodlights.

In Balint, winger Marius Lacatus and striker Victor Piturca, who has scored in every round of the competition, they have the pace and flair to trouble a Barcelona defence which was pierced with ominous regularity by Götterburg in the semifinals.

But the Romanians do not have anyone to match midfielder Bernd Schuster, the troubled genius of West German football.

Schuster may be playing his last game for the Catalans and the prospect of crowning his unhappy stay in Spain with a triumphant farewell could be the perfect motivation.

Despite Steaua's ungainly image, Schuster and Lacatus could make the 31st final one of the best in recent years.

Ali says U.S. government conspired against him

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali wants to win the title back one more time.

Ali, the only man to win the heavyweight championship three times, also wants to prove that the government conspired to deny him conscientious objector status during the Vietnam war which led to the World Boxing Association (WBA) stripping him of the title in 1967.

He was not permitted to fight for three years.

Ali, now 44, filed suit in U.S. District Court in 1984 claiming his

1967 conviction for draft evasion violated his constitutional rights and demanding that the WBA restore his title for the years 1967 to 1971.

The former champ and his lawyers were in court on Monday requesting that they be given a chance to prove that unidentified high-ranking U.S. Justice Department officials conspired to deny his conscientious objector status exempting him from the draft during the Vietnam war.

He later was convicted of draft evasion, but the Supreme Court overturned the verdict in 1971.

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One sterling	1.5300/10	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3772/77	Canadian dollars
	2.2175/85	West German marks
	2.5000/20	Dutch guilders
	1.8455/70	Swiss francs
	45.27/34	Belgian francs
	7.0700/0800	French francs
	1519/1521	Italian lire
	167.60/70	Japanese yen
	7.1125/75	Swedish crowns
	7.0100/50	Norwegian crowns
	8.2300/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	340.75/341.25	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Shares closed lower after a firm opening as higher than expected U.K. M-3 money supply figures for April gave weight to afternoon selling pressure, dealers said.

Wall Street's overnight strength and comments from the Tokyo summit Monday that conditions for further cuts in international interest rates are promising helped prices move up in early trading.

Lack of follow-through saw shares drift around midmorning and drop after the money supply data.

At 1430 Tuesday the FTSE 100 index was down 15.1 points to 1,637.2 after a high of 1,657.7, while at 1400 the F.T. 30 index was down 11.4 to 1,371.5 after 1,389.1 during the morning.

Government bonds mostly closed with pared gains of around 3/16 point although some longer issues slipped down early gains of 3/4 point to around 1/2 point following the M-3 growth.

Some dealers believe the timing of what is seen as a likely near term cut in U.K. base rates could have been set back by the money supply figures.

Shares were also hit during the afternoon by renewed rumours that Allied Lyons could be about to make a large rights issue to fund its proposed acquisition of Hiram Walker's drinks division.

Clausen sees poverty in Third World as paramount insecurity

WASHINGTON (R) — Outgoing World Bank President Tom Clausen said Monday that industrial countries should back development assistance in Third World nations or face new pressures of global insecurity.

Speaking before a group of corporate executives, Mr. Clausen said that with annual military expenditures totalling \$1,000 billion, the major powers need to consider whether \$1 in military costs provides more security than \$1 in development aid.

"To leave people with no hope of breaking the chains of poverty is to court political upheaval and violence," Mr. Clausen said.

He said that in the "final analysis, however, we are only asking the industrialised countries to do what is entirely in their own interests."

Mr. Clausen, who retires June 30 to be succeeded by former New York congressman, Mr. Barber Conable, was highly critical of what he viewed as growing protectionist pressures by the wealthy countries.

"Hardly a day goes by without new calls in the industrial countries for more import restrictions on developing country commodities," he said, adding: "We absolutely must restore freer trade."

He said that industrial countries should attempt to achieve a steady rate of inflation-adjusted growth, which can assist in the development of world demand.

Mr. Clausen criticised budget deficits in industrial countries, which he said undermined progress that has been achieved on controlling inflation.

He said while it may be difficult politically, nations should try to reduce budget deficits by cutting public spending.

"Those economies with persistently high deficits must work to reduce them," he said, adding: "and taking the route of public expenditure cuts seems the most appropriate approach."

EC proposes halting food imports from East Europe

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community (EC) executive commission Tuesday agreed proposals for the suspension of fresh food imports from six East European countries in the wake of the Chernobyl nuclear plant accident, a commission official said.

He said the plan would involve a temporary, but indefinite, ban on imports of fresh milk, vegetables, fruit and freshwater fish.

The countries involved would be the Soviet Union, Hungary, Bulgaria, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Romania.

The commission is also recommending that member states coordinate measures to control the radioactivity in food traded generally in the Community, the spokesman said.

The official said the recommendation, designed to prevent radioactivity controls interfering with the free movement of food products within the EC, includes proposed maximum radioactivity levels.

He did not give details of the proposed levels.

The official said that in choosing the countries to be included in the suspension, the commission had worked on the general principle that they should have territory within 1,000 kilometres of Chernobyl.

He noted that East Germany was not on the list.

The official said that the commission would continue to monitor radioactivity and would propose an end to the ban when satisfied that returning imports posed no health threat.

The commission proposals for food products traded internally are designed to prevent a repetition of problems such as those which have already occurred at the Italian border.

West German, Belgian and Danish exporters have complained that their consignments have been held up by a new requirement for a certificate saying that the goods are considered fit for human consumption in the exporter country.

Strike paralyses Belgium

BRUSSELS (R) — Right and left-wing unions paralysed Belgium's public services and closed schools Tuesday in a protest strike against planned cuts in public spending.

The strike is regarded by political commentators as the most serious challenge to the centre-right coalition of Prime Minister Wilfried Martens since a general strike failed in September 1983.

Public transport throughout Belgium was at a standstill, Brussels airport was closed, long queues built up at the Netherlands border and ferries that ply between Ostend and Britain stayed in port. Postal services were also halted.

The strike is in protest at an austerity programme being finalised by the government to cut public spending by a further 200 billion francs (\$4.5 billion) in the next 18 months.

Saudi Arabia to continue netback oil selling policy

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwaiti Oil Minister Ali Khalifa Al Sabah said Tuesday that he was optimistic that the deterioration in oil prices will be arrested in the second half of 1986 and gradually improve.

Addressing reporters on the fringes of the semi-annual meeting of the 10-nation Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), Sheikh Ali said there was "a legitimate tendency for prices to continue rising during the third and fourth quarters of the year."

He did not elaborate. Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani meanwhile told the reporters that his country would continue the netback oil selling policy "because it is the best system for the time being."

The kingdom, the world's largest oil exporter, last year resorted to the so-called netback deals, where prices of crude oil are related to those of refined products on the market, in face of the widespread discounting practiced by other members of the 13-nation oil group, OPEC.

The Kuwait-based OAPEC is the sister organisation of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), and comprises Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Iraq, Syria, Algeria, Libya and Tunisia.

But only the oil ministers of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Syria showed up for the OAPEC gathering, with the rest sending in lower ranking representatives.

Sheikh Ali headed the meeting at the request of Sheikh Yamani in view of the absence of Qatari Oil Minister Abdul Aziz bin Khalifa Al Thani, current OAPEC council chairman.

The OAPEC ministerial council has a number of cooperation issues to discuss, including a request by Tunisia to withdraw from the organisation.

Sheikh Yamani, in his response to reporters' questions, had earlier discounted chances that this meeting would be discussing oil matters related to the industrialised nations. He said that any decisions by the Tokyo summit pertaining to energy "will be tackled through OPEC."

Tunisia joined the 10-year-old OAPEC in 1983, and now wants to pull out on the grounds that its

current oil production of 120,000 barrels per day was not enough to necessitate membership, conference sources said.

In an opening address, Sheikh Ali noted that the retreat of oil prices had prompted the Arab oil-producing countries to curtail their expenditure, and said this would reflect on all organisations including OAPEC.

But he expressed hope that cutting OAPEC's budget would be "on well-considered bases so that the organisation in which we have invested much money and time over the past decade will not be affected."

Responding to reporter's question, the OAPEC Secretary General Ali Atiga denied reports that Libya requested that the council add to its agenda an oil embargo against the United States.

Commenting on the Tunisian request, Mr. Atiga said it faced "strong opposition because this organisation has to grow so as to become an energy organisation in future."

Earlier, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported that Saudi Arabia has decided to give its oil customers a discount on every barrel of crude oil lifted during the month of May.

Tokyo summit economic declaration

TOKYO (R) — Following is a partial text of the economic communique agreed by the seven Tokyo summit nations and read out to reporters Tuesday by Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone:

...The world economy still faces a number of difficult challenges which could impair sustainability of growth. Among these are high unemployment, large domestic and external imbalances, uncertainty about the future behaviour of exchange rates, persistent protectionist pressures, continuing difficulties of many developing countries and severe debt problems for some, and uncertainty about medium-term prospects for the levels of energy prices.

If large imbalance and other distortions are allowed to persist for too long, they will present an increasing threat to world economic growth and to the open multilateral trading system.

We cannot afford to relax our efforts. In formulating our policies, we need to look to the medium and longer term, and to have regard to the interrelated and structural character of current problems.

We stress the need to implement effective structural adjustment policies in all countries across the whole range of economic activities to promote growth, employment and the integration of domestic economies into the world economy.

Such policies include technological innovation, adaptation of industrial structure and expansion of trade and direct foreign investment.

In each of our own countries, it remains essential to maintain a firm control of public spending within an appropriate medium-term framework of fiscal and monetary policies. In some of our countries there continue to be excessive fiscal deficits which the governments concerned are resolved progressively to reduce.

Since our last meeting we have had success in the creation of new jobs to meet additions to the labour force, but unemployment remains excessively high in many of our countries.

It is important that there should be close and continuous coordination of economic policy among the seven summit countries.

To this end, the heads of state or government:

— Agree to form a new group of seven finance ministers, including Italy and Canada, which will work together more closely and more frequently in the periods between the annual summit meetings;

— Request the seven finance ministers to review their individual economic objectives and forecasts collectively at least once a year, using the indicators specified below, with a particular view to examining their mutual compatibility.

With the representatives of the European Community:

— State that the purposes of improved coordination should explicitly include promoting non-inflationary economic growth, strengthening market-oriented incentives for employment and productive investment, opening the international trading and investment system, and fostering greater stability and predictability in

currency exchange rates;

— Reaffirm the undertaking at the 1982 Versailles summit to cooperate with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in strengthening multilateral surveillance, particularly among the countries whose currencies constitute the Special Drawing Right (SDR), and request that, in conducting such surveillance and in conjunction with the managing director of the IMF, their individual economic forecasts should be reviewed taking into account indicators such as gross national product (GNP) growth rates, inflation rates, interest rates, unemployment rates, fiscal deficit ratios, current account and trade balances, monetary growth rates, reserves, and exchange rates;

— Invite the finance ministers and central bankers in conducting multilateral surveillance to make their best efforts to reach an understanding on appropriate remedial measures whenever there are significant deviations from an intended course and recommended that remedial efforts focus first and foremost on underlying policy fundamentals, while reaffirming the 1983 Williamsburg commitment to intervene in exchange markets when to do so would be helpful.

The heads of state or government:

— Request the Group of Five, G-5, finance ministers to include Canada and Italy in their meetings whenever the management or improvement of the international monetary system and related economic policy measures are to be discussed and dealt with;

— Invite finance ministers to

report progress at the next economic summit meeting.

These improvements in coordination should be accompanied by similar efforts within the group of ten.

The pursuit of these policies by the industrialised countries will help the developing countries in so far as it strengthens the world economy, creates conditions for lower interest rates, generates the possibility of increased financial flows to the developing countries, promotes transfer of technology and improves access to the markets of the industrialised countries.

At the same time, developing countries, particularly debtor countries, can fit themselves to play a fuller part in the world economy by adopting effective structural adjustment policies, coupled with measures to mobilise domestic savings, to encourage the repatriation of capital, to improve the environment for foreign investment, and to promote more open trading policies.

In this connection, noting in particular the difficult situation facing those countries highly dependent on exports of primary commodities, we agree — to take account of their export needs in formulating our own trade and domestic policies.

We reaffirm our willingness to maintain and, where appropriate, expand official financial flows, both bilateral and multilateral, to developing countries.

We reaffirm the continued importance of the case-by-case approach to international debt problems. We welcome the progress made in developing the cooperative debt strategy, in particular building on the United States initiative.

A number of African countries continue to need emergency aid, and we stand ready to assist.

We reaffirm our commitment to halting and reversing protectionism, and to reducing and dismantling trade restrictions. We support the strengthening and functioning of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), its adaptation to new developments in world trade and to the international economic environment, and the bringing of new issues under international discipline.

We note with concern that a situation of global structural surplus now exists for some important agricultural products, arising partly from changes technological improvements, partly from changes in the world market situation, and partly from long-standing policies of domestic subsidy and protection of agriculture in all our countries. This harms the economies of certain developing countries and is likely to aggravate the risk of wider protectionist pressures.

We all recognise the importance of agriculture to the well-being of rural communities, but we are agreed that, when there are surpluses, action is needed to redirect policies and adjust structure of agricultural production in the light of world demand.

Bearing in mind that the recent oil price decline owes much to the cooperative energy policies which we have pursued during the past decade, we recognise the need for continuing of policies for achieving long-term energy market stability and security of supply.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Until noon you have the chance to consider what you want of a pioneering nature and to complete thoughts which can aid you in attaining these goals.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You know just how to handle personal matters and activities and make quick headway. State your ambitions to others.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Sit in the privacy of your study and analyze your secret aims and plan how to gain them. Plan activities for the future.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Know what your most personal wishes are and how best to bring them to fruition, and then get your time scheduled wisely.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Study your career activities and get a new insight so you can make them operate more successfully.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Find the right methods so that you can gain your goals more readily, and then be very active in the outside world.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Study into new systems so that your business life can become more successful. One whose ideas are different from yours can be helpful.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) A clever person has a fine idea for increasing production so follow it. Handle your part of the work.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Plan how to handle routines more intelligently so that you can greater benefit from them.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) If you are wide awake to new pleasures you can easily enjoy them now. Be efficient in your work.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Any family affairs that are important should be handled in an original way now, and they will soon be resolved.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Get an early start at outside tasks for which you have had little time for lately and they are soon behind you.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Study property and other assets and see what can be done to improve or add to them. Set up a better budget.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will want to acquire as much knowledge as possible so be certain to add as many subjects as you can to the school curriculum. Your progeny will decide what profession to follow early in life and will persevere in such direction and gain much success in the lifetime.

THE Daily Crossword by Harold B. Counts

ACROSS

- Take shape
- Actress Vera
- Clayey deposit
- Melody
- Awkward
- Bread spread
- Chatter endlessly
- Child's pajamas
- Clergyman
- Red deer
- Colloidal suspensions
- Dramatist
- Foot
- Pseudonym
- Ancient Gr. city-state
- Neckline shape
- Shuttlecock
- Sinker, slangily
- Wife of Zeus
- Arden
- Flexes
- European finch
- Diving ducks
- Conditions
- No n.s. or luts
- Cheese source
- Kind of coat
- Collar
- Entrance
- Divis Presley
- Seed coat
- Having wings
- Function
- Hawaiian goose
- Coins
- Leg joint

DOWN

- Minnesota
- Utah
- De Harvard
- Wild members
- Lazy
- No more no
- R.T. boot
- shir
- Hurry
- Fashionable
- Drug plant
- Game officials
- Attic
- Precious gems
- Town on the Rhone
- Stage direction
- Pole used in Gaelic games
- Swarming
- Stuck
- James and Ward
- Turn inside out
- Brook
- School
- Official
- 32 Duck's milieus
- Non-paying customer
- Mental effort
- Long neck
- Type of hat
- Manage
- Glove materials
- Canoe's land
- Word of comparison
- Choice
- Miss Moran
- Seth's dad
- Egyptian deity
- Ivy League
- Snick and
- Clay once

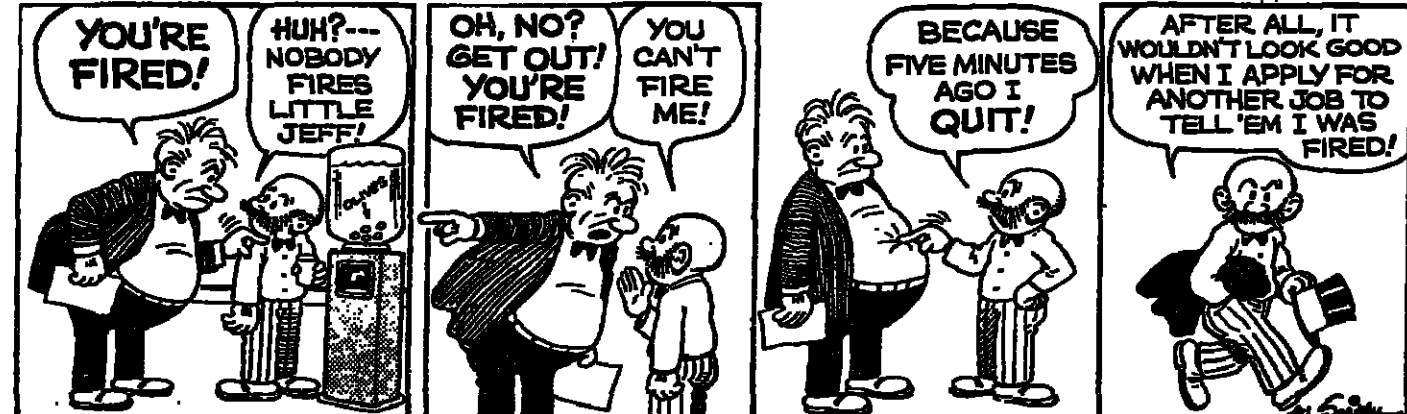
Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

SILVER	ASTAR	MAMA
PITIA	STYRE	ILIER
LODES	SIGNAR	GLITE
NORTHERN	INDIGAS	
WATERS	RIEPILES	
LOJAL	MAJALAT	
ABRIDSON	LEATHION	
POT	NOIDE	RAIASE
SCHEMERS	MARINER	
GIPS	POTIA	
INTEH	PAINTASTIC	
PARIS	CLARIE	SIOIO
ALICIA	PARALAT	ELIUD
ORAIN	ELIUD	DEIKI

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SONIE

NATEC

CROOPE

HOCORB

IN HEAVY TRAFFIC, THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE TRYING TO DO THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TEPID SKULK KOWTOW LARYNX

Answer: What the geographer was, naturally — "WORLDLY" WISE

Botha repeats condition for Mandela's release

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Following fresh calls for the release of Nelson Mandela, President P.W. Botha has said he will not free the black nationalist leader unless Dr. Mandela renounces violence as a means of political change.

The independent South African Press Association quoted Mr. Botha late Monday after white opposition legislator Helen Suzman met Dr. Mandela in a Cape Town prison and then urged the government to free him unconditionally.

Mrs. Suzman said Dr. Mandela was committed to negotiations, and could be South Africa's "last hope" for peaceful movement away from apartheid and toward a non-racial democracy.

The pro-government South African Broadcasting Corp. quoted Justice Minister H.J. Coetsee as describing Mrs. Suzman's assessment of Dr. Mandela as contradictory. He cited guerrilla attacks by the outlawed African National Congress (ANC) and recent remarks by Dr. Mandela's wife, Winnie, that blacks could gain their goals through violence.

Dr. Mandela, 67, was jailed 22 years ago as leader of the ANC's armed wing, after conviction of plotting against white-minority rule. He remains a magnetic figure in South African affairs and his continued imprisonment has brought worldwide criticism of the white-led government.

Mr. Botha's conditional offer to release Dr. Mandela was a restatement of government policy and has previously been rejected by Dr. Mandela, who insists that he will accept no conditions for his freedom.

Speculation has grown recently that Mr. Botha is seeking a face-saving way around the issue, possibly in connection with the Commonwealth's eminent persons group, which is seeking peaceful solutions in South Africa.

Some observers have suggested that the Commonwealth group would call on the ANC to suspend guerrilla attacks in return for the release of Dr. Mandela.

Taiwanese pilot reunites with family in Peking

PEKING (R) — A Taiwanese defector brought a Jumbo jet to Peking Tuesday for a reunion with his elderly father and brothers.

"Thank you everyone," Wang Xijue, who was wearing a uniform of Taiwan's China Airlines, told a welcoming ceremony. "I hope from today we can have more communication across the Taiwan Strait."

Wang diverted the Boeing 747 cargo plane to Canton on Saturday while flying from Bangkok to Hong Kong and Taipei.

On Tuesday he flew the plane to Peking where the head of China's national airline, CAAC, said the flight was the "first step" in linking communications between Taiwan and China.

Hu Yizhou also said at the ceremony that China would "completely respect the wishes" of the two other crewmen.

Wang, 56, who is married with two sons, left China for Taiwan in 1949. He was reunited at the airport Tuesday with his 82-year-old father and three brothers.

CAAC officials said Wang had about 35 relatives in China and he was welcome to live here.

Wang, who comes from south west Sichuan province, had told reporters in Canton he missed his family in China and hoped Taiwan would not harm his wife and children.

China has called on Taiwan to negotiate directly for the return of the plane, co-pilot Dong Guangxing and mechanic Qiu Mingzhi.

Foreign Minister Botha told the South African parliament Monday the U.S. aid to UNITA has made the Angolan government "disinclined" to negotiate a Cuban withdrawal. "Luanda, I believe, is livid over the U.S. aid to UNITA and the atmosphere for negotiation is not good," he said.

Mr. Botha said the Aug. 1 target date for implementing the U.N. independence plan for Namibia was proposed by the United States.

Mr. Botha said Mozambican President Samora Machel, when he met President Botha in Swaziland 10 days ago, produced "prima facie evidence" that "somebody in Johannesburg" was involved in a car bomb that recently exploded in Maputo, the Mozambican capital.

The foreign minister said a new commission was being established to look into such complaints and to improve Mozambican-South African co-operation.

Mozambique's Marxist government has accused South Africa of violating a two-year-old mutual security pact requiring both sides to end support for guerrillas opposed to each other's governments.

South Africa has admitted only what it called technical violations of the accord.

Mr. Botha also told parliament his government's first priority was to stop boycotts imposed by Western trading partners.

"It is as if Moscow's goals are being directly furthered by the West and Moscow can sit back and wait until the economic debilitation works through," he said.

Mr. Botha accused foreign news organisations of cooperating in a campaign to minimise any good news about changes in South Africa's racial policies.

They said it may have been organised by Anahita Ratebzad, a politburo member, head of the women's organisation and friend of Mr. Karmal who lives near the palace.

Soviet paratroopers also took up positions around the Soviet housing project in Mikroyon, the Soviets' hospital in Shar-I-Nau and Moscow's sprawling embassy in western Kabul, they said.

The diplomats reported secret police beat up girls Monday morning as they staged another pro-Karmal protest at the prestigious Istiglal Lycee near the Central Committee building.

The diplomats said it appeared Karmal, who returned to Kabul on May 1 after a mysterious one-month medical check-up in Moscow, was not present at the session that decided his fate.

Moscow airlifted the first of its 115,000 troops to Kabul in December 1979 to install Mr. Karmal in power and help fight Afghan guerrillas rebelling against the April 1978 Communist coup.

But Soviet media have criticised him in recent months for failing to introduce needed reforms, prompting speculation he was out of favour with new Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The diplomats said Kabul has had no newspapers since last Thursday and telegraph and telephone lines out of the country were said to be out of order.

State-run television did not show Mr. Karmal's return and its failure to report on the obviously crucial meeting sparked rumours the president had died.

The radio, whose headquarters was also guarded by Soviet troops, used announcers speaking the distinctive Persian of Soviet Tajikistan at least once last weekend, Afghans listening to the radio in neighbouring Pakistan reported.

The teeming Pol-I-Khishi Bazaar, the closest to the encircled palace area, was shut down on Friday and Saturday.

Meanwhile, the New York Times said Tuesday the prospects for peace in Afghanistan are grim but the Soviet Union can allow the world to help it withdraw troops by reassessing its priorities.

Soviets reportedly guarded Afghan party talks

ISLAMABAD (R) — Soviet tanks surrounded key government buildings, blocked off Afghan army barracks and trained their cannons on Kabul from surrounding hills during a three-day meeting to pick a new Communist Party leader last weekend, Western diplomats said Tuesday.

The diplomats, quoting reports from Kabul, said several demonstrations by women and youths supporting Babrak Karmal, who officially resigned for health reasons, were broken up by security police during and after the meeting attended by Moscow's ambassador.

The tense Central Committee session chose former security chief Gen. Najibullah, 39, as new party leader on the eve of renewed Afghan peace talks in Geneva.

Zahoor Razemji, Kabul Party boss and politburo member, was reported to have been beaten up by Karmal supporters when he ordered posters of the former leader, who remained president, to be torn down, the diplomats said.

They said most Afghan troops manning extensive road blocks in the city centre were unarmed, apparently to stem any possible revolt. The Interior Ministry, led by Najibullah's rival, Gen. Sayed Mohammad Gulabzoi, was ringed by Soviet tanks.

The diplomats said secret police broke up a women's protest near the presidential palace on the morning of May 2, at the beginning of the meeting in the heavily-guarded complex which also houses the Central Committee building.

They said it may have been organised by Anahita Ratebzad, a politburo member, head of the women's organisation and friend of Mr. Karmal who lives near the palace.

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Portuguese probe train pile-up

POVOA DE SANTA IRIA, Portugal (R) — Experts began investigating Tuesday whether a signalling failure or human error caused Portugal's second big train crash in eight months which killed at least 17 people and injured 80.

Monday's accident at the station of Povoia De Santa Iria, 15 kilometres north east of Lisbon, occurred when a passenger train ploughed into the rear of a stationary commuter train, crushing one of its three carriages crowded with passengers.

Firemen recovered 15 bodies from the commuter train. Two more people were crushed to death on the station platform when its concrete roofing collapsed after a support pillar was cut down by the hurtling wreckage.

Portugal's state railway company Caminhos De Ferro Portugueses (CP) immediately set up a commission of inquiry.

Firemen worked during the night to clear the line and said they could not rule out the possibility of finding more bodies.

Investigators were expected to try to establish why the high-speed passenger train, on its way to Lisbon from Covilha in north eastern Portugal, failed to stop at lights outside the station which should have warned of another train halted ahead.

The driver of the passenger train, who escaped uninjured, told reporters a first signal light situated outside the Povoia De Santa Iria station was green when he passed. When the train reached a second light at red much nearer the station, it was too late to stop, he said.

CP President Carvalho Carreira told reporters the first indications pointed to human error as the cause of the accident.

More than 37 people were killed in a collision between an international express and a local train at Alcaface in northern Portugal in September last year. Railway officials were still investigating the cause of that crash.

Witnesses of Monday's accident said many passengers of the commuter train, who included students on their way to classes in Lisbon, saw the passenger train approaching at speed and managed to jump to safety minutes before the impact.

"It was like a cyclone," one eyewitness said.

Portugal's worst rail crash occurred in 1964 at Custodias near Oporto when 60 people were killed.

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They accused Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, whose Congress (I) Party introduced the bill, of appeasing religious hardliners in an attempt to win the minority Muslim vote in key states.

Mr. Gandhi's party has lost elections in Punjab and Assam states since last September.

Arif Mohammad Khan, who resigned a junior cabinet post over the bill, branded it as "inhuman and un-Islamic."

"It will lead Muslim women to the pre-Islamic era when they were considered to be animals, chattels and the private property of men," he said during the debate.

The law reverses an April 1985 supreme court decision that overruled Muslim personal law and gave divorced Muslim women the right to permanent alimony from former husbands.

An opposition motion called the legislation "surrender to fundamentalist and obscurantist forces" but the government said it would create trust and confidence among Muslims.

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Opponents said few issues had split the Muslim community so deeply since the subcontinent was partitioned after British rule in 1947 into Hindu-majority India and Muslim Pakistan.

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